

Bender Family History Book

Contains Becker, Bender, Gamache, Koch, Neff, Ott, Stephens and Wittenberg pictures

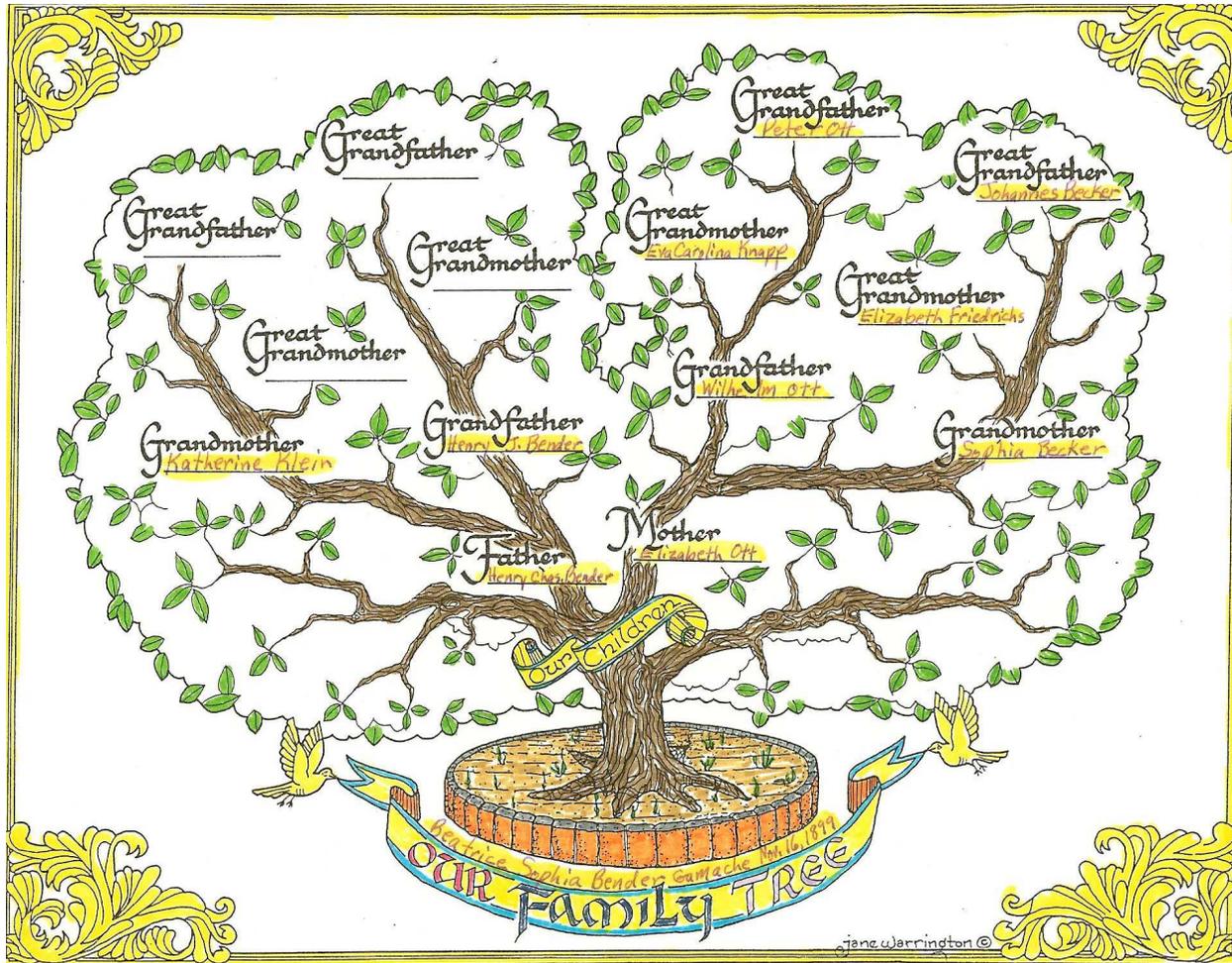


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Introduction

This album represents over 100 years of pictures which were obtained from Elizabeth Ott Bender, Elmer Bender, Mildred Bender Neff and Edward Paul Bender. Some of these pictures were duplicated by Sandy Bender Wilhelm while visiting distant cousins in their homes to obtain genealogical information. This album gives us a glimpse of who we are and where we came from. It shows us a brief look into what other family members looked like, how they dressed and where they lived. Pictures are indeed worth a thousand words. They are priceless - one cannot go back and snap pictures of yester year. Each picture is a moment captured in time - a moment which was and is no more. I am indeed most thankful to those relatives who were kind enough to share their photos with us. It is my belief that these photos should belong to all of us, not just to a few who had them passed on at the time of death of the former owner. If you have old photos, please duplicate them and pass copies on.

Sandy Bender Wilhelm
45430 Grant Park, Utica, Mi 48317

Henry Joseph & Katherine Klein Bender Family

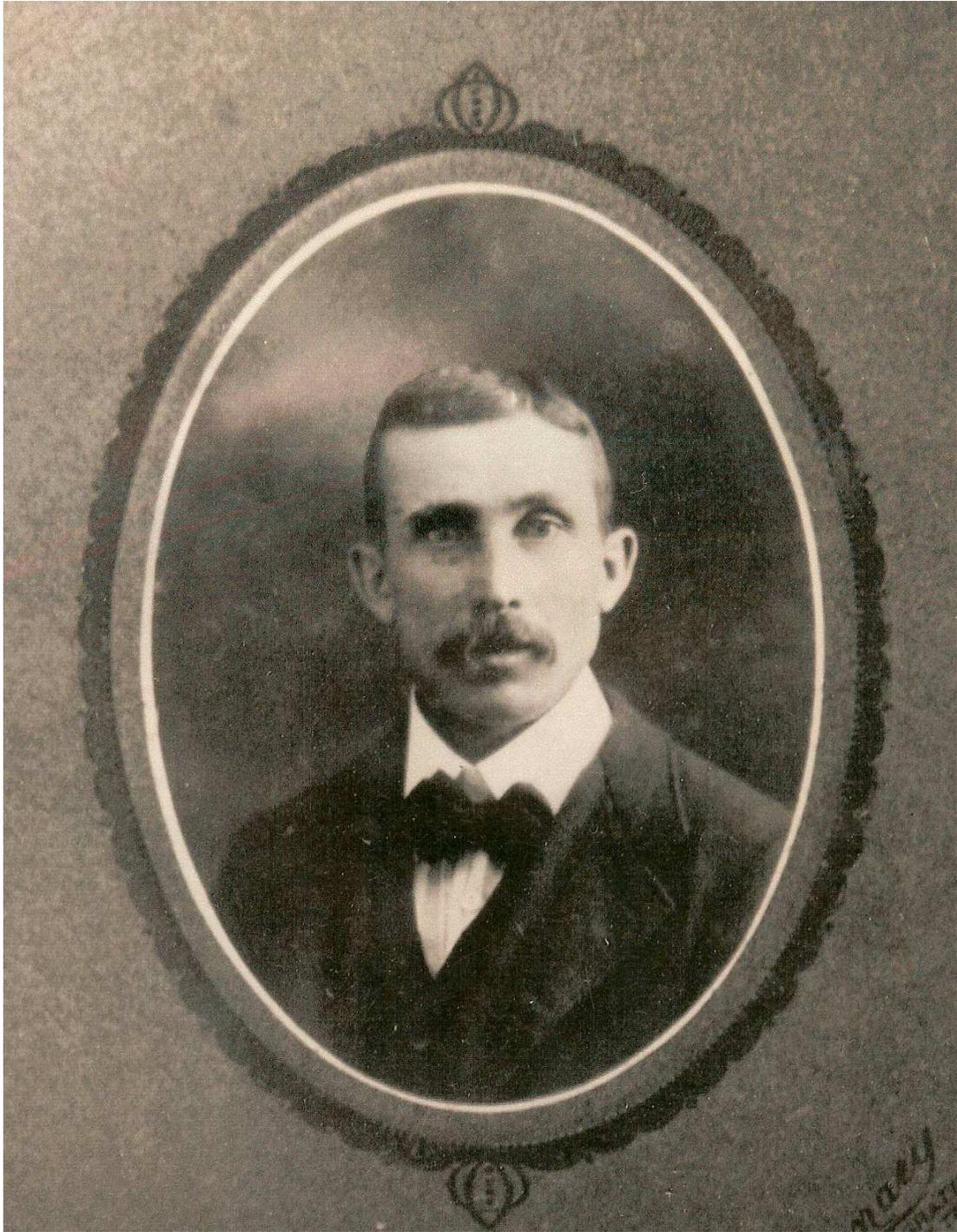
This is a picture of Henry Joseph Bender, father of Henry Charles Bender.



Henry Joseph came to America around 1863, settled into Ohio and was immediately drafted into the Civil War on the Union side. After the Civil War Henry Joseph and his wife Katherine Klein Bender came to Detroit from the Cleveland, Ohio area. Henry's Dittman and Sanger cousins remained in Ohio and on occasion his family would visit theirs. Henry Joseph and Katherine were married in Germany, in the Bonn-Cologne area and had an infant when they came over on a sailboat. The infant got sick and died on the boat and the captain had to throw her overboard to the sharks who were hovering about in order to protect the boat.

The Benders lived for years in a house on Grandy St. in Detroit.

This is a slightly older picture of Henry Joseph Bender, the father of Henry Charles Bender.



For most of his adult life Henry Joseph was a house painter by trade. An awful story told to Sandy by Mildred Neff was that Henry's wife Katherine would wash out Henry's painting clothes with turpentine when he got home, then she would wipe out the turpentine from the bowl and then knead the bread in the same bowl!

Henry Joseph had a major stroke toward the end of his life and for several years he lay helpless in a bed in the back bedroom. They were very poor and could not afford sufficient coal for the entire winter, so when Mildred Neff visited him there was no heat in the house and he was covered with rags in order to try to keep him warm. He died on January 11, on his wife Katherine's birthday.

This is a picture of Katherine Klein Bender, sitting, and her two daughters, Elizabeth Bender Wittenberg, left, and Anne Bender Fox, right.



In addition to these 2 daughters the other known living children of Katherine Klein Bender and Henry Joseph Bender are:

Henry Charles Bender, our grandfather, was born December 19, 1869. The family told him they think he was born May 18, 1872 but they weren't sure. We found his birth certificate with the December date. They obviously mixed him up with Peter who was born May 18.

Peter Bender, a motorman for the Detroit Streets and Railways. He was a rather inventive soul and what he is best remembered for by the children was a roller coaster for kids that he built in his front yard. Peter was born in 1868 on May 16th and died at the age of 53 while driving his streetcar. He felt a massive heart attack coming on, radioed for permission to pull into a side slip on Gratiot. He brought the car to a stop and then dropped dead, falling on top of the conductor.

Joseph Bender, an older brother of Henry Charles. Joseph and Henry Charles went out hunting one day and just as Henry pulled the trigger on his rifle, Joseph popped up from where he was crouched over and the bullet struck Joseph in the head. Henry dragged his brother Joseph to medical care. He lived but was always somewhat impaired after that. Joseph worked in a foundry thereafter and lived with his parents until Elizabeth took Katherine to live with her and left Joseph to fend for himself. In his last days, Edward Bender saw Joseph, ill and clad with his toes coming out of his shoes fighting a bitter wind on Gratiot Avenue. Ed wanted to jump off Art's streetcar and go greet Joe, but Art told him no, don't embarrass Joe.

This is another much later picture of Katherine Klein Bender.



By this time in her life she was living with her older daughter, Elizabeth Bender Wittenberg on Wayburn in Grosse Point Park, Michigan. Katherine's husband Henry Joseph died in 1905, so she was a widow from then until her death at age of 90 in 1934. For a while after Henry Joseph's death, she lived with her son Joe who helped support her with his job at the foundry. Joe worked very hard, lifting very heavy metal over his head all day. He ended up getting a double hernia and in those days there was no workmen's compensation. Joe died lonely and penniless with no one to care about him or for him.

Katherine had a good life with her daughter Elizabeth and her husband John, who was a lieutenant in the Grosse Pointe Police force. John always earned a good wage and provided well for the family. Elizabeth also worked for a while too until the children started coming along.

This is another later picture of Katherine Klein Bender.



This family was quite poor all of their lives. Their daughter, Elizabeth Wittenberg, met her future husband, John Wittenberg, when as a teenager she took a job in the

factory her worked in and on her first day on the job she fainted and they had a hard time bringing her to again. When John asked her what the problem was she said she hadn't eaten in 3 days. John got her something to eat, then after work he bought groceries for the whole family and when he dropped off the groceries he saw that in January they had no heat and no kerosene for the lamps. He also noted that the lamps had no hood for safety against carbon monoxide fumes as well. John took care of all those problems that day, buying groceries and coal and hoods.

This is a picture of Katherine Klein in her last days. She was a very amiable, happy person.



Little Eddie Bender remember her sense of humor when she looked at him with a twinkle in her eye and said, “Eddie, you’re a bad boy!”. Edward wondered for years afterward who had been talking to her about him that she would say that to him.

One of the favorite stories about great Grandma Katherine Klein Bender was the “fuennie” story. Katherine loved to sit on Elizabeth’s front porch on a rocker in the summer, rocking away, watching the traffic go by. One beautiful June morning she did just that and her daughter Elizabeth sat with her for a while in the morning enjoying the weather, birds and breeze in the trees and sunshine. Then Elizabeth went to fix lunch for both of them and upon her return with the lunch, Katherine had disappeared. Her daughter looked everywhere for her and then called her husband John, who was the Grosse Pointe Police Chief and told him that her mom was lost. John called St. Ambrose Catholic Church which is next door to their home and asked if there was a funeral that day, and if so, which cemetery did they go to? There was and it was Mt. Olivet. Someone had asked Katherine if she needed a ride there and she said yes. A patrol car was sent and found Katherine wandering among the graves, looking for her husband. She was found when John remembered that she just loved attending “fuennies”. Katherine spoke almost no English her entire life.

This is the house on Grandy Street in Detroit that Henry Joseph and Katherine Klein Bender lived in for many years.

This is the home that Henry Joseph Bender died in. And it is from this home that Elizabeth Bender Wittenberg took her mother, Katherine Klein, from to live with her and her family on Wayburn Street in Detroit.



The man in the middle picture with the name Uncle Joe over his head is Joseph Bender, the son of Henry Joseph Bender and Katherine Klein Bender.



He is the brother of our Grandfather, Henry Charles Bender, the brother that Grandpa shot in the head by accident while out hunting.

The other people in the picture are cousins of our Grandfather Henry Charles Bender. They are the Dittman and Sanger cousins who live in the Cleveland, Ohio area.

This is a picture of Elizabeth Bender Wittenberg, the sister of Henry Charles Bender, our Grandfather. She is the daughter of Katherine Klein Bender and Henry Joseph Bender.



Elizabeth is the wife of John Wittenberg and the mother of Lillian, Lawrence and John Jr..

Elizabeth Bender met her future husband, John Wittenberg, when as a teenager she took a job in the factory her worked in and on her first day on the job she fainted and they had a hard time bringing her to again. When John asked her what the problem was she said she hadn't eaten in 3 days. John got her something to eat, then after work he bought groceries for the whole family and when he dropped off the groceries he saw that in January they had no heat and no kerosene for the lamps. He also noted that the lamps had no hood for safety against carbon monoxide fumes as well. John took care of all those problems that day, buying groceries and coal and hoods. John fell in love with Elizabeth and they soon married. They had a wonderful life together until one day while he was getting ready for duty she heard him crying in the bathroom, something he never did. She asked him what the problem was and he replied that he was going to die today and he didn't want to leave her alone. He said he felt fine, but he just knew he was about to die. He went to work, did roll call, got dizzy and dropped dead.

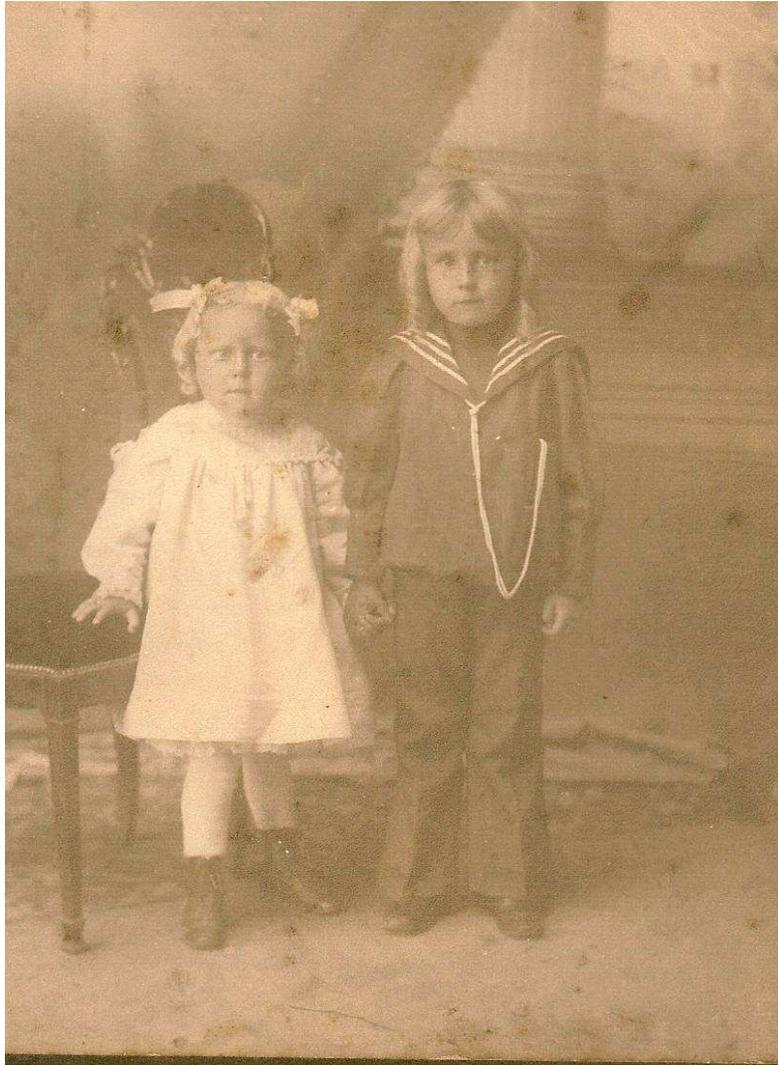
This picture was taken about 1915.

This is a family portrait of the John and Elizabeth Bender Wittenberg family taken in 1902.



Elizabeth is the daughter of Henry Joseph Bender and Katherine Klein Bender. She is the sister of our Grandfather, Henry Charles Bender.

This is a portrait of Lillian and Lawrence Wittenberg, the children of John and Elizabeth Bender Wittenberg.



The Wittenberg family had a lot more money than Elizabeth's siblings which is shown in each of these pictures in how well the family members are dressed.

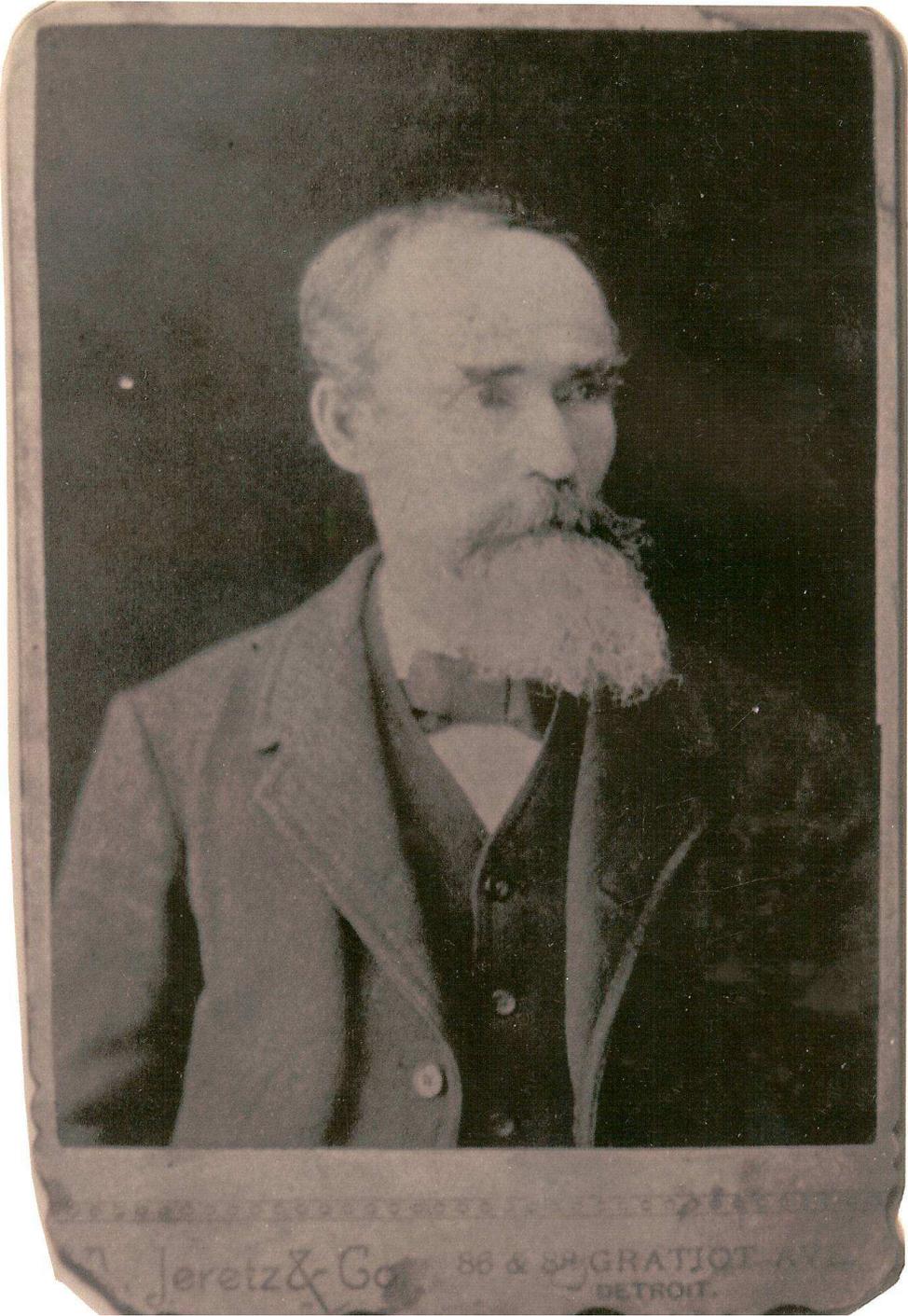
Here is the 1st communion portrait of Lillian and Lawrence Wittenberg.



They are the children of Elizabeth Bender and John Wittenberg.

Ott Family

This is a portrait of our great grandfather, Wilhelm Ott.



He is the husband of Sophie Becker Ott and the son of Peter Ott and Eva Carolina Knapp Ott. He was born in Baden Baden Germany, married Elisabeth Braun and had 2 living children, Pauline and Adolph Ott. Elisabeth died of cancer at age 43. Wilhelm then married our great grandmother, Sophie Becker Ott and they had 3 living children: Elisabeth Ott Bender, Agnes Ott Koch and Anne K. Ott.

After he married Sophie, during their entire marriage he was suffering from a severe form of emphysema due to the fact that he was a stone cutter for his cousins, the Knapps, who talked him into coming to America to work in their building business. The Knapp's built many of the buildings in and around downtown Detroit. Wilhelm and many of his cousins cut stone from the quarry and formed them for the buildings. The stone dust remained in their lungs, causing them to die horrible deaths, often hemorrhaging to death. As Wilhelm became more and more distressed by not being able to breathe he began to become very angry and took his anger out on Sophie, calling her names and writing derogatory remarks about her on the bedroom wall.

Wilhelm died at the age of 53 from stone lung. He carved his own tombstone in his last days. He lies buried in Mt. Elliott Cemetery.

Here is a picture of our great grandmother, Sophie Becker Ott, holding her great grandchild, Bruce Neff. At her feet, the older child at left is our Uncle Norman John Bender and the young child on the right in the grass is Stuart Neff, the adopted son of Harold and Mildred Neff. This picture was taken in front of the Bender house on Maxwell and Lambert Streets in Detroit in 1917.



Sophie Becker Ott had a hard life as a married woman. Her husband Wilhelm Ott was still grieving for the loss of his first wife, Elisabeth Braun who died of cancer at age 43 and the death of his infant son earlier in the same year. After he married Sophie they also lost an infant son and during his entire marriage he was suffering from a severe form of emphysema due to the fact that he was a stone cutter for his cousins who talked him into coming to America to work in their building business. The Knapp's built many of the buildings in and around downtown Detroit. Wilhelm and many of his cousins cut stone from the quarry and formed them for the buildings. The stone dust remained in their lungs, causing them to die a horrible death, often hemorrhaging to death. As Wilhelm became more and more distressed by not being able to breathe he began to become very angry and took his anger out on Sophie, calling her names and writing derogatory remarks about her on the bedroom wall.

Sophie went back to her parent's home for a while after her husband Wilhelm Ott died.

This Event was the biggest shocker our family had ever experienced. Elizabeth Ott Bender's sister, Agnes Ott Koch suffered the loss of her first husband to pneumonia, leaving her with his Gold Medal trucking company to run. She solved the problem by marrying her late husband's manager. However, the manager, Henry Mc Dermott turned out to be a heavy drinker and her ended up suffering from the DTs in which he saw snakes, bugs, etc. Agnes made arrangements to have him committed to dry out. He found out, bought a new car, put his wife and their children in it, leaving her children by a previous husband home. He then drove to the foot of Parker Street and sunk the new car into 13 feet of water. All family members, including him, were drowned. It was one of the biggest funerals that Detroit had seen at that time. People lined up for blocks to stream through the funeral parlor to view the 4 caskets. The family buried him with the family he had just drowned.



Here is the Detroit newspaper account of the drowning of Elizabeth Ott Bender's sister Agnes Ott Koch Mc Dermott and her 2nd husband, Henry Mc Dermott. Henry insisted on taking only his children for a car ride in his new car, making sure all Agnes' children by her first marriage remained behind. Henry was suffering badly from the DTs from his heavy drinking and he was livid with anger when he learned that his wife was about to commit him to dry him out.

Edward Paul Bender said he was getting out of work from the midnight shift and as always he bought a Detroit Free Press on his way home. When he read the headlines that Agnes Ott Mc Dermott had been drowned he ran home and when he saw his mom's face he knew it was his Aunt Aggie.

HARD D SHOW



See other cases reported all certified by a member of hospital clinic.

one find that this hospital does far more than stop ing instantly. It penetrates and infuses linings of the ing passages. Absorbed by rice it quickly reduces a, helps away that "feverish" feeling and drives out the on the nose passages, throa, etc.

a few pleasant spoonfuls of Pectoral now and you'll fee different person tomorrow. Druggists, 40c. Injns at each hospital also.

ERRY PECTORAL
for COLDS and COUGHS
HOSPITAL CERTIFIED



RIN

an effective antidote for... that there is only one... on every tablet, and... and if it doesn't, it is... Aspirin. So are colds... neuralgia, neuritis, and... distress.

DROWNING OF 4 BRINGS INQUEST

Police and Assistant Prosecutor Believe Movements of Car 'Suspicious.'

An inquest into the death of the four members of the McDermott family, who were drowned last night when the father backed their new automobile into the canal known as Motor Boat Lane, will be ordered, James E. Chenot, chief assistant prosecuting attorney, said today.

Mr. Chenot said he and Inspector William Fisher, of the McClellan station, have concluded that "reasonable doubt" exists as to whether the plunge of the car was accidental.

The dead: **HENRY McDERMOTT**, 39 years old, 4158 Pennsylvania avenue. **ANES KOCH McDERMOTT**, 44 years old, his wife. **HENRY McDERMOTT, JR.**, 8 years old, and his sister, **JOAN**, 1.

The accident occurred at 9:15 p. m. McDermott had been driving about a vacant lot in the rear of the Parkview Avenue Pumping Station, which is between Jefferson avenue and the Detroit River.

THEN THE CAR LURCHED.

Kenneth Lawson, 2946 Drexel avenue, a night fireman at the pumping station, saw the car lurch back suddenly and plunge into 12 feet of water in Motor Boat Lane.

Lawson was almost a block from the scene, but arrived before the car was entirely submerged. The joy waters seeped into the closed body slowly. Lawson ran to the foot of Parkview, grabbed a life preserver and threw it into the canal. He jumped in after it.

He said he still could hear the screams of Mrs. McDermott. He tried to pull open the doors but failed, and soon afterward, he said, the screams died away.

CALLS FOR HELP.

Lawson crawled out of the canal and called the Harbormaster's Division. When the car was pulled out the gears were still in reverse.

The bodies were taken to a mortuary chapel, where Mrs. McDermott was identified through an address in her pocketbook.

Four children of Mrs. McDermott by a previous marriage live at the McDermott home. They are William Koch, 24 years old; Marvin, 21; Lillian, 19; and Wilber, 17.

Lawson said his attention was drawn to the car which was driven backward and forward about the vacant lot for nearly 10 minutes before it plunged into the water. Lawson said the driver seemed to be having difficulty with the car.

NO RAILINGS THERE.

A wooden obstruction separates the foot of Parkview avenue from the Detroit River, but there is no railing or protective device along the canal.

The lot through which McDermott drove is used during the summer for parking cars. Motor Boat Lane cuts into it. The water lies several feet below the ground level.

George Huber, district superintendent for the D. P. W., where McDermott was employed as a foreman, told detectives McDermott had come from "the copper country," where he had been employed as a chauffeur by mine officials.

"I doubt whether there was a better driver in the department," Huber said. "I rode with him last Saturday night. He told me of trips he had taken in the new car with his family—to New Baltimore and other places."

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News

Here is a family portrait of Agnes Ott Koch with her first husband, William Koch and their children. William was not the one who drowned Agnes. William Koch was a diligent, kind upright man. He established and ran a flourishing trucking company, Gold Medal.

William Koch's family from left to right are:

Agnes Ott Koch, Jackie Koch (sitting), Harry Koch behind her (Harry was run over by a streetcar at age 10), William Koch Sr., Lillian Koch, William Koch Jr. (behind Lillian) and Marvin Koch on right. William Jr. was Bill Sr.'s adopted son born before he married Agnes. Edward Bender said these boys were a lively bunch.



Agnes Ott Koch Harry Wm. Koch Sr. Lillian Wm Koch Jr Marvin Koch Jackie
1914

Here is a picture of little Henry (Harry) Mc Dermott Jr., aged 3. He is the son of Agnes Ott Koch Mc Dermott and Henry Mc Dermott Sr. It was a blessing that he had no inkling of what face him and his family in 3 short years. In that time, he went from 1st grade into a horrifying watery death.



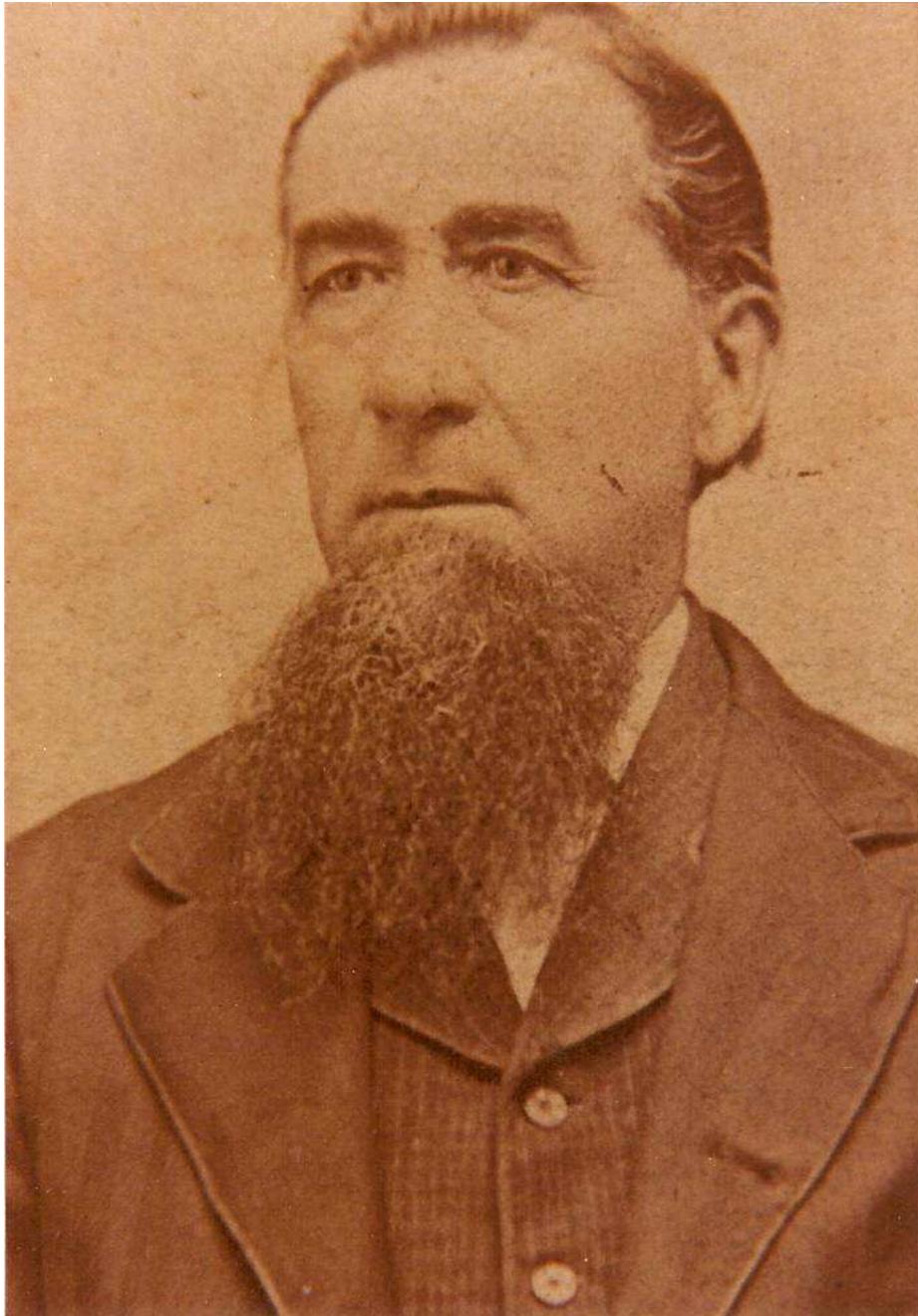
Here is a teenage picture of William Koch Sr., on the left, and his sister and brother. This picture was taken about 1904. William was a decent, honorable husband and father. He would have been horrified to know what happened to his family after his death from pneumonia. It was a sorry day indeed for the Koch family when William Koch Sr. hired Henry Cc Dermott as a manager in his company.



William Koch Sr. and his sister and brother

Becker Family

Here is a picture of our great great grandfather, Johannes Becker.



Johannes was born in Prussia in 1824 and immigrated to America about 1850. He married Elizabeth Friedrichs around 1855 and established himself as a Cooper on Gratiot Avenue, just outside downtown Detroit. He plied his trade from 1854 until shortly before his death in 1905. He fought in the Civil War and was wounded at Gettysburg. He then made barrels and casks for the Union Army for the remainder of the war. He did well financially and cared well for his family.

Johannes is the father of Sophie Becker Ott.

Here is Elisabeth Friedrichs Becker, our great, great grandmother.



Elisabeth was born in Germany and immigrated to America sometime before 1853. She met and married Johannes (John) Becker Sr. in 1855. She is the mother of our great grandmother, Sophie Becker Ott.

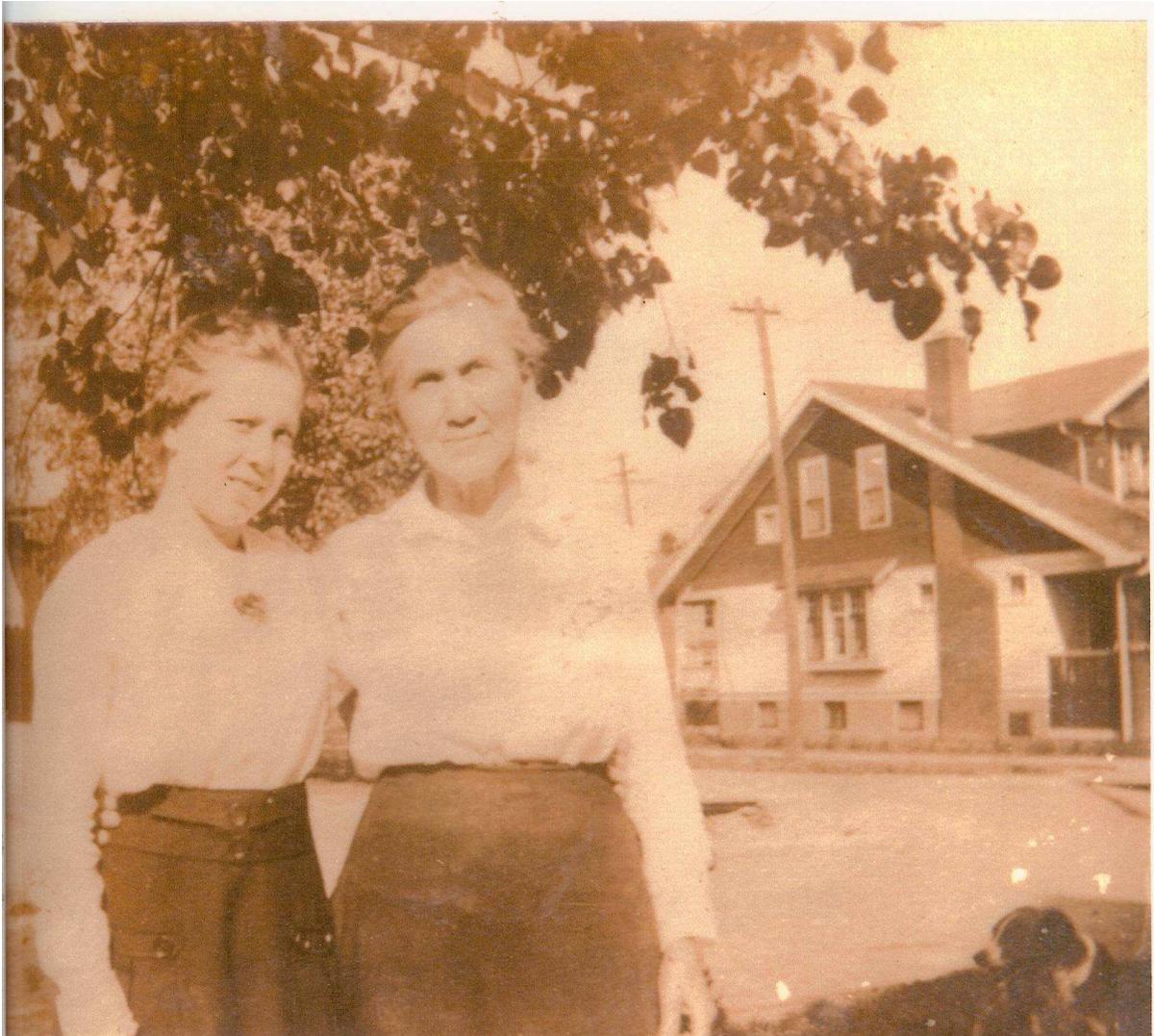
Elisabeth loved her family and had a really kind heart toward her children. She took the family of her daughter Elizabeth in, when Elizabeth died in giving childbirth. Great great grandma lived just long enough for that motherless infant to turn 17. And when the family would come to visit, she would take them downtown to buy them clothes and shoes. “Die Kinder brauchen Shue” (The children need shoes) was a phrase she could often be heard uttering.

Elisabeth Friedrichs Becker died in 1911.

Here is a picture of John H. Becker, the son of Johannes Becker and Elisabeth Friedrichs Becker. He is the brother of our Grandmother, Sophie Becker Ott. He is also the father of our grandmother Elisabeth Bender's oldest son, Arthur Francis Bender Sr..



This is a picture of Mildred Bender Neff on the left and her grandmother, Sophie Becker Ott on the right.



Sophie is the oldest child of Johannes Becker and Elisabeth Friedrichs Becker. She was born in 1855 in Detroit. Her father was born in Copershofen, Germany in 1824. Sophie grew up in an apartment her father owned above his cooper shop. Her dad fought in the Civil War and then made barrels and casks for the Union Army for the remainder of the war. Sophie was an excellent

seamstress and often castigated her grandchildren when their stitches were not uniform and small.

Sophie broke her leg in her later years when she was riding on a streetcar. The driver made a sudden stop and she was thrown to the floor of the streetcar. After that she always had a hard time walking.

Here is a picture of Beatrice Bender Gamache on left, Norman Bender, center and Sophie Becker Ott on right.

They are standing in front of the Bender house at Maxwell and Lambert Streets in Detroit.



Beatrice & Norman Bender, Sophie Becker Ott 1917

Here is a picture of Elisabeth Ott Bender and her 2 oldest living children, Beatrice Bender Gamache and Arthur Bender Sr.

This picture was taken in front of her parents, Sophie and Wilhelm Ott's home at 460 Moran St in Detroit. Her father Wilhelm was dead when this picture was taken in 1901.



Elisabeth Ott Bender & her children, Beatrice Bender Gamache & Art Bender
in front of the Ott house at 460 Moran St in Detroit

Henry Charles & Elizabeth Ott Bender Family



Elizabeth Ott Bender & Henry Charles Bender

This page and the previous page is the 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary photo of Edward Bender's parents, Elizabeth Ott Bender and Henry Charles Bender.



They celebrated this event on August 2nd, 1944. They had a very happy gathering of family and friends this date. The family loves to retell over and over again how jealous Lizzie was when her Hank danced with another woman.

Elizabeth Ott Bender on her 1st Holy Communion day on June 26th, 1892.



Elizabeth is the mother of Edward Bender and the daughter of Sophie Becker Ott and Wilhelm Ott. She was the oldest of their children. She had 2 full sisters, Agnes and Pauline Ott. She also had 2 half siblings on her father's side - Adolph Ott and Pauline Ott. She had a deceased full brother William Otto Ott and a deceased half brother Otto Ott. Wilhelm was previously married to Elisabeth Braun who died of cancer in her 40's.

This is a remembrance of Elizabeth Ott Bender's 1st Holy Communion given to her by the Catholic Church.

It reads in German:

A remembrance of the 1st Holy Communion of Elizabeth Ott which was celebrated on the 26th of June, 1892 in St. Elizabeth's Church in Detroit, Michigan.

A. Svensson



Henry Charles Bender and his sister Anne Bender Fox on their 1st Holy Communion Day in about 1881.



Henry is the father of Edward Bender and the son of Katherine Klein Bender and Henry Joseph Bender.

Arthur Francis Bender, Sr., the son of Elizabeth Ott Bender and her new husband, Henry Charles Bender.



Arthur Bender Sr.

This picture was taken in 1898, the year Hank and Lizzie were married.

The rest of Lizzies children were very cruel to Art Sr. when they would get mad at him, calling him names because he was darker complected in his youth like Rhea Becker.

Here is a picture of Mildred Bender Neff, mother of Bruce and Robert Neff and Sally Neff Kujat.

Beatrice Bender Gamache, mother of Donald, David, Eugene and Mary Gamache.

Arthur Bender Sr., father of Arthur Jr., Clyde, Donald Francis Bender, Monaclaire Bender Peters and Carol Bender Myers.

Millie, Bea and Art are the children of Henry Charles Bender and Elisabeth Ott Bender.



Arthur Francis Bender Sr. on his 1st Holy Communion Day in 1908.



Arthur Bender Sr. Confirmation Day

Art is the oldest brother of Beatrice Bender Gamache, Mildred Agnes Pauline Bender Neff, Edward Bender, Elmer "Al" Bender and Norman John Bender.

This picture is Elizabeth's son Robert. She had also lost a son George within a year of the loss of this son.

Grandma Elizabeth Bender and Grandpa Henry Charles Bender lost many infants in their many years together. Mildred Neff said that if all of the children had lived Elizabeth would have had 14 children in all. The reason Elizabeth lost so many infants was due to the fact that she had RH- blood and Henry had Rh+ so her blood attacked her children's causing it to sickle. All of her Rh babies were in acute distress from the time they were born until they died, usually right around 3 months of age. Poor Grandma Bender thought that the babies died because they got pneumonia from her not taking good enough care of them. No one knew of the Rh factor in her day so they called it pneumonia.

My nephew Craig Stephens was the first baby in our family to be saved from this disorder as they had just recently discovered the cause of this and he had thus received 3 complete blood transfusions.



Robert Bender, son of Elizabeth & Henry Bender

The last infant that Elizabeth and Henry lost was this little girl, Mary Anne Bender. She had the Rh factor and all 3 months of her young life she suffered terribly as Elizabeth's blood antibodies attacked and killed little Mary Anne's red blood cells.

Elizabeth was beside herself trying to calm this screaming child and asked for help from her children. Eddie said his mother used to tell him to take his little sister for a buggy ride to calm her. Eddie fussed mightily as he wanted to be out with the guys playing baseball. At 3 months of age little Mary Anne, like her brothers before her, passed away in severe pain to the end.

At Mary Anne's funeral Elizabeth said a very cruel thing to her 9 year old son Eddie. She said to him, "Eddie, you always wanted you little sister dead, and now you got your wish!" Edward never forgot that. It hurt him to the quick. He said, I wanted to play baseball rather than push a buggy around, that's true, but I never, ever wanted my little sister dead!

The only reason Edward and Norman did not die of the Rh factor was because they had Rh blood like their mother.



Mary Ann (Marian) Bender, daughter of Elizabeth & Henry Bender

Edward Paul Bender in his buggy in 1909.



Mildred said that Edward often fell asleep in the buggy when they took him for a ride, but one thing you would never, ever do - you never lowered the back of this buggy. Edward would wake up and scream his head off. Another cut buggy story - when Elizabeth went grocery shopping she would take Ed in his buggy with her. She also would take Black Sport with her. When she got to the store she would leave the buggy outside with the dog in alert attendance. "You watch! and don't let any one near the baby!" She would tell the dog. When a stranger would come near to look at the baby black Sport would show his teeth.

Henry Charles Bender, Edward Paul Bender, age 5, and Elisabeth Ott Bender.



This picture was taken in 1913 to show the injury Edward received when a shop keeper punched him in the mouth.

Elisabeth Ott Bender in front of her home at Maxwell and Lambert Streets in Detroit. These pictures were taken in 1917 by Harold Neff, future husband of Mildred Bender Neff.



Elisabeth Ott Bender

Here is a picture of Elizabeth Ott Bender sitting in a wooden rocker on her front lawn at Maxwell and Lambert Streets in Detroit.



Elizabeth Ott Bender 1917

Elizabeth was 38 years old in this picture, which was taken in 1917. She had just lost 2 babies in 3 years shortly before this picture was taken.

Elizabeth Ott Bender standing in front of her home at Maxwell and Lambert Streets in Detroit. The baby in her arms belongs to a friend of hers who suffered from a post partum psychosis and had to be hospitalized. The baby was returned to his mother when she regained her health.



Elizabeth Ott Bender & neighbor's baby

This is the youngest picture we have of Norman John Bender, the youngest surviving child of Henry Charles and Elizabeth Ott Bender. He was the baby brother of Edward Bender.



Norman Bender behind Maxwell & Lambert in Detroit

Norman is standing behind the house on Maxwell and Lambert by the big barn there. It was into this barn that Ed put brown Sport after he had been hit by a car. The next morning Ed went out to the barn with leaden feet and a broken heart, sure he would find a dead dog. He opened the barn door and Sport sprung to life and sailed right over Ed's head. You never met a more joyous boy than Ed was at that moment!

This picture is of Norman John Bender, the youngest surviving child of Henry and Elizabeth Bender. The dog at his side is Brown Sport. This picture was taken at the side of the Bender house at Maxwell and Lambert in Detroit.

Norman was a very spoiled child as he was the last and the first to survive after many infant deaths. It must have seemed almost like a miracle to Elizabeth that suddenly after so many dead babies this one survived. Norman was born on December 5, 1913.



Brown "Sport" & Norman Bender 1917

Here is a picture of Edward Paul Bender and his sister, Beatrice Bender Gamache taken in 1917.



Ed wanted to join the Boy Scouts but the Benders had no money for a uniform so Ed borrowed his brother Art's army uniform to wear to the meetings. The uniform was much too big for him so he looked ridiculous in it. They kicked him out of the boy scouts for not having a uniform. Poor little Ed was very embarrassed about this. Bea's dress was hand sewn by her grandmother Sophie Becker Ott.

Beatrice Bender Gamache, left and her sister, Mildred Bender Neff, on the right.



Beatrice Bender Gamache & Mildred Bender Neff 1917

The girls were very proud of their party dresses that their Grandmother Sophie Becker Ott had sewn for them. Almost all of their clothes in those days were sewn by hand. Grandmother Elizabeth Bender used to have many pieces of cloth on her attic stairs waiting to be turned into clothing. As the girls grew old enough to sew themselves they would borrow some of this material. Mel wished Sophie could see what a good seamstress she had become.

Here is a picture taken of Beatrice Bender Gamache in front of their home at Maxwell and Lambert Street, Detroit.

This picture was taken by Harold Neff, Mildred Bender Neff's future husband.



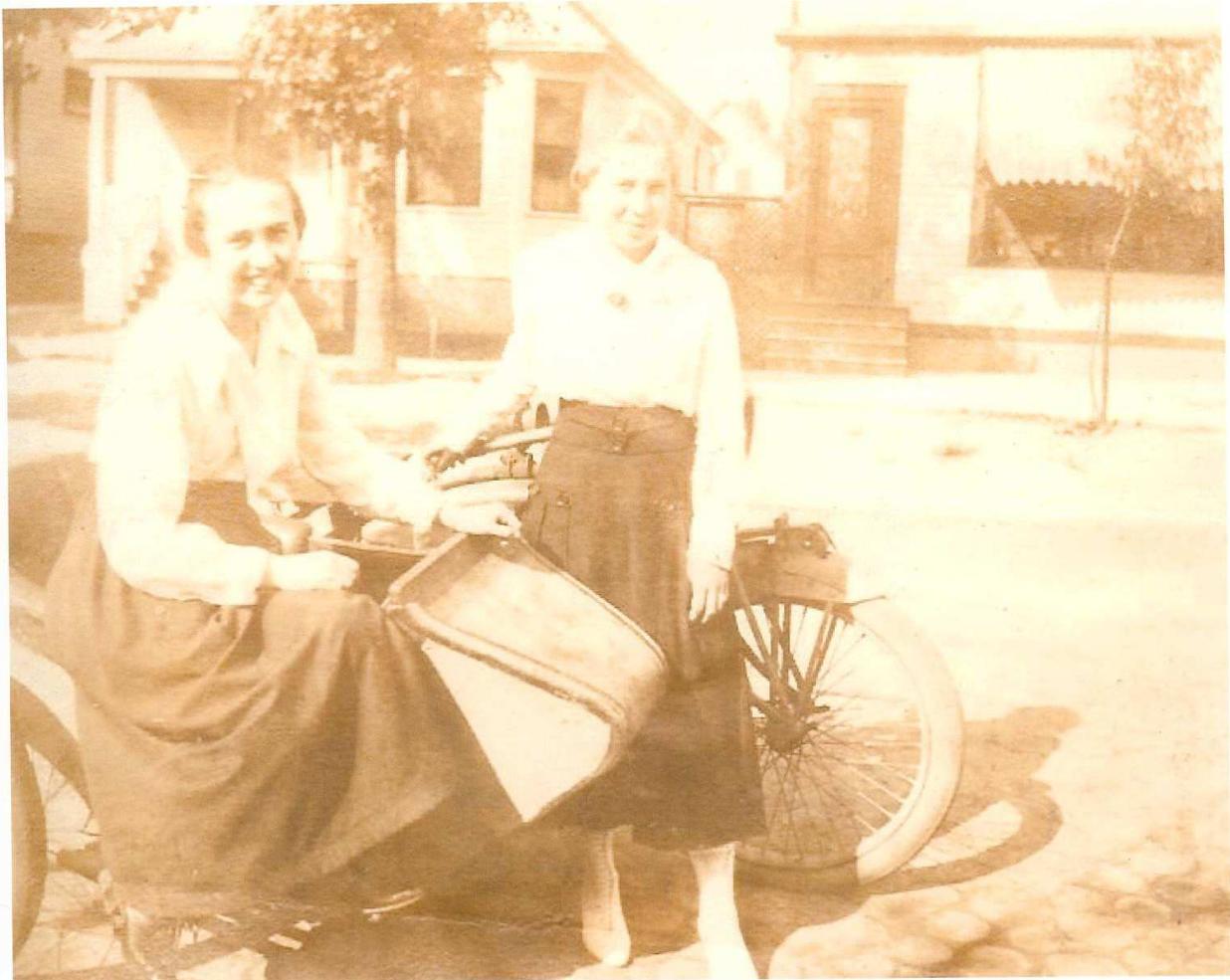
Beatrice Bender Gamache
in front of the Bender residence at Maxwell & Lambert , Detroit

1917

Beatrice Bender Gamache and her sister Mildred Bender Neff.

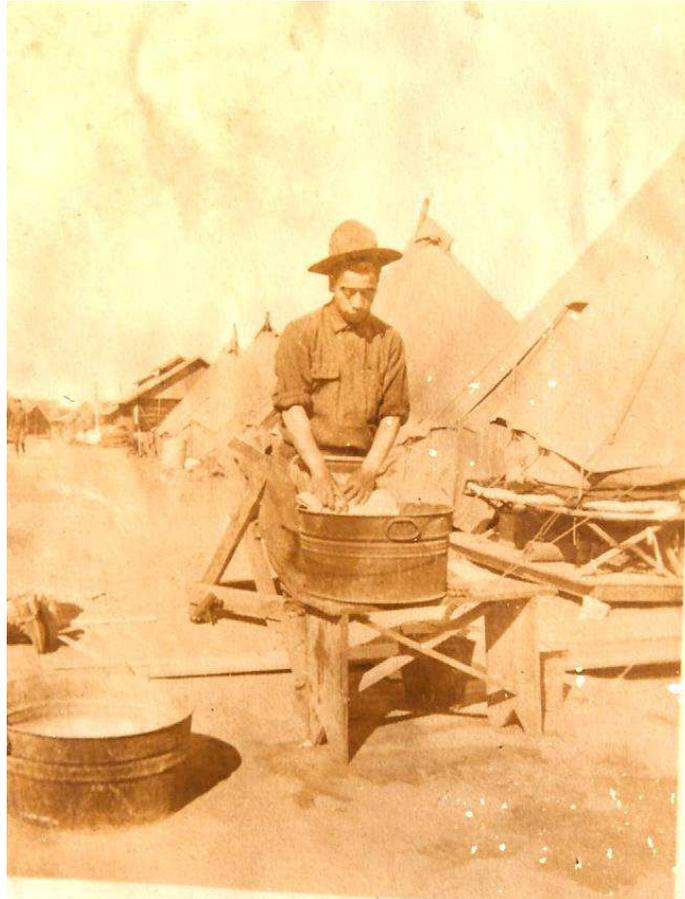
Bea is sitting in Harold Neff's motorcycle sidecar in front of their home at Maxwell and Lambert.

This picture was taken in 1917.



Beatrice and Mildred Bender on Harold's Sidecar Motorcycle

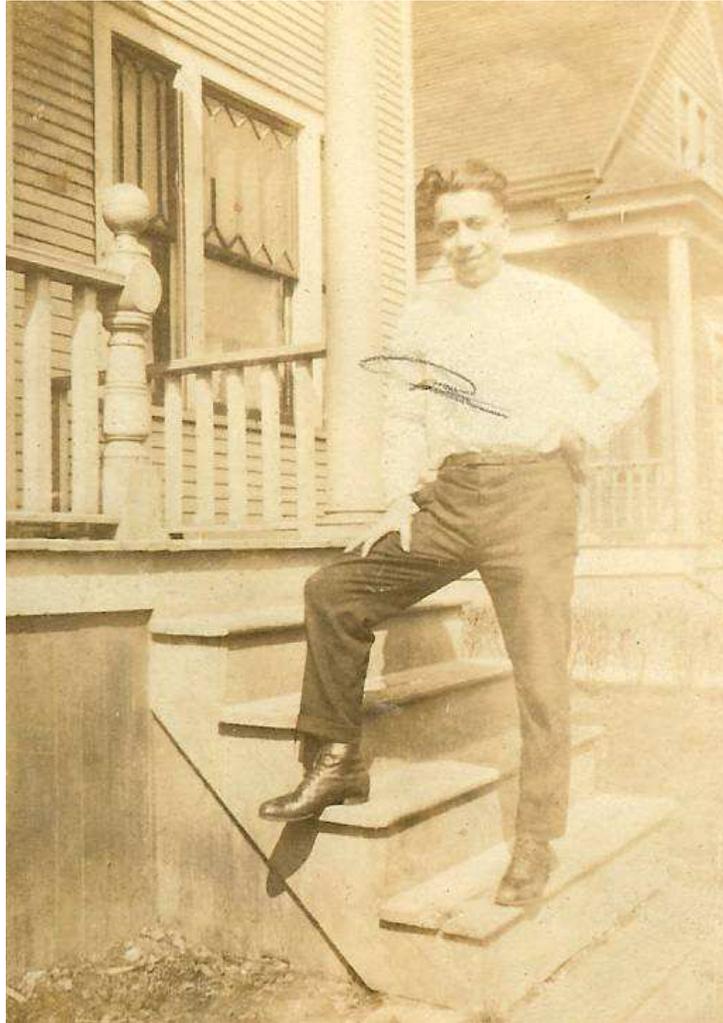
Arthur Francis Bender Sr. in camp in Texas in 1917 during the Spanish American War there.



Arthur Francis Sr. in the Spanish American War

Arthur said to Sandy that when all the bullets started whizzing over his head he was so scared that he dug the deepest foxhole and stayed low in it until the conflict was over. Art brought home with him a suitcase full of “interesting” cigarettes that his younger brother Edward discovered and tried out, until Art found out and boxed his ears!

Here is a picture of Arthur Francis Bender Sr. just after he returned from serving in the Spanish American war in Texas.



Arthur F. Bender Sr. at Maxwell & Lambert in Detroit

Art had just received an honorable discharge and was very happy to return home alive and in one piece. Now, at 22 years of age he was ready to begin his civilian young adult life.

Here is Arthur Francis Bender Sr. with the family dog Brown Sport.



Arthur Bender Sr. with Sport

Brown Sport was the second family dog named Sport. The first dog was called Black Sport. Brown Sport was highly intelligent according to Ed Bender, but he was told that Black Sport was even smarter. Arthur told me he never really trusted Brown Sport, that he would never turn his back on this dog. You can see this by the look on Art's face. But at the same time looking at Sport you can see he didn't trust Art much either!

Mildred Bender Neff holding a bouquet of lilacs outside her home at Maxwell and Lambert Streets in Detroit.



Mildred Bender Neff & Harold Sanderson Neff 1917

These were good years for Mildred. She was leaving a life of poverty and stepping into a middle class style of life where they never want for food or shelter and they were able to pay their bills in a timely fashion. Harold was very good to Mildred.

Here is Mildred Bender Neff outside her place of work in downtown Detroit in 1917 shortly before she was married.



Mildred Bender Neff in downtown Detroit

Mildred was 16 years old at the time this picture was taken.

Here is a picture of Mildred Bender taking a ride in Harold Neff's motorcycle in the attached sidecar in 1917.



Mildred Bender Neff in Harold's side car 1917

Harold belonged to a motorcycle club and they spent many happy hours cycling with the club out into the countryside. In those days Harold's club was peopled by the most respectable persons, all decent people like Harold.

Here is a picture of Harold and Mildred outside the front of the Bender home at Maxwell and Lambert Streets in Detroit.



Harold Neff & Mildred Bender Neff 1917

Harold lived with his mother. His father was deceased. Harold and his mother had not a good word to say about his father. Harold said his father was a drinker and was very cruel to him and his mother. It was actually a blessing to the family when he passed on and left them in peace.

Here is a picture of Mildred Bender Neff sitting in the row boat at the Neff's cottage.

This picture was taken about 1917.



Mildred Bender Neff

Here is a picture of Harold and Mildred by Harold's home in Grosse Pointe, Michigan.



? Harold Neff & Mildred Bender Neff

Harold said his mother owned a very large tract of land in Grosse Pointe including land along the water front. She sold off most of this land for what she thought was a fair price, but Harold grimaces when he thinks of what they could have sold it for a little while later, especially if they had parceled it off.

The child in this picture is unknown.

Harold Neff and Mildred Bender's wedding day
November 28, 1918.

Upper row, 3rd from left, is Beatrice Bender Gamache,
the older sister of Mildred.



? Harold Neff ? Beatrice Bender Mildred Bender ?

Here is a picture of Beatrice Bender Gamache standing up in her sister Mildred Bender Neff's wedding on November 28, 1918.

Bea and Mildred became close again in the spring of 1968 and it was arranged that Bea would stand up again for Mildred when Harold and Mildred would repeat their wedding vows on their 50th wedding anniversary. Bea did not, make it - she passed away in September of that year.



Mildred Bender Neff and her mother in law, Mrs. Neff.



Mildred Bender Neff & Sally Sanderson Neff

This picture was taken on of Mrs. Neff s cottage. Mrs. Neff was of a rather severe and domineering nature according to Mildred. Mrs. Neff was a protestant and demanded that Mildred and Harold practice her religion and raise the children accordingly. Mildred said she was not allowed to go to the Catholic Church for fear of offending Mrs. Neff and possibly be disinherited by her. When Mrs. Neff died Mildred returned to her Catholic faith.

Here is a picture of Norman Bender in his cute little sailor suit Mildred bought for him. It's a little too big for him but that's good so he can grow into it and have it a little while longer.

This picture was taken by a professional photographer who used to go door to door taking pictures of the children.



Norman John Bender

1918

Here is a picture of Arthur Bender Sr. in a wooden row boat at Mrs. Neff's cottage.



Arthur Bender Sr in Harold Neff's canoe

When Aunt Mildred Neff showed me the picture made her aggravated, saying that Art just invited himself up to the cottage and then just ran down to the dock and jumped in the row boat without even asking permission.

Here is a picture of Beatrice Bender Gamache taken around the time of her marriage to Edward Gamache.

The silver is coming out of the original on this picture and the black background is becoming quite distinct. Fortunately her hand and face still show up quite well.



Beatrice Bender Gamache

Arthur Bender Sr. and Harold Sanderson Neff in front of the Bender residence at Maxwell and Lambert Streets in Detroit. I think the boy in the background to the right is Edward Bender, but I'm not sure due to the hat he is wearing.



Arthur Bender Sr. & Harold Sanderson Neff

Harold was a really good catch for Mildred as he was an only child and came from a well to do Grosse Pointe family. Harold was a hard worker as well and always a good provider.

Arthur Bender Sr and Agnes Radtke Bender on their wedding day.



Arthur Bender Frank Radtke Irene Radtke Mildred Bender Neff Agnes Radtke Bender Norman Bender

Their best man was Agnes' brother Frank Radtke. Their matron of honor was Art's sister Mildred Bender Neff. The girl is Agnes' niece, Irene Radtke. The boy is Norman John Bender, Art's brother.

Picture taken on September 26, 1923.

Art Bender Sr. and Agnes Radtke Bender on their wedding day.

Arthur's sister, Mildred Bender Neff, on the left, was the matron of honor.



Mildred Bender Nell Arthur Bender Sr & Agnes Radtke Bender

Here is a professional photographer's picture of Norman Bender sitting on a pony.

The photographer also provided the pony in those days as a prop for his picture taking.

The family no longer lived at Maxwell and Lambert at this point in time.



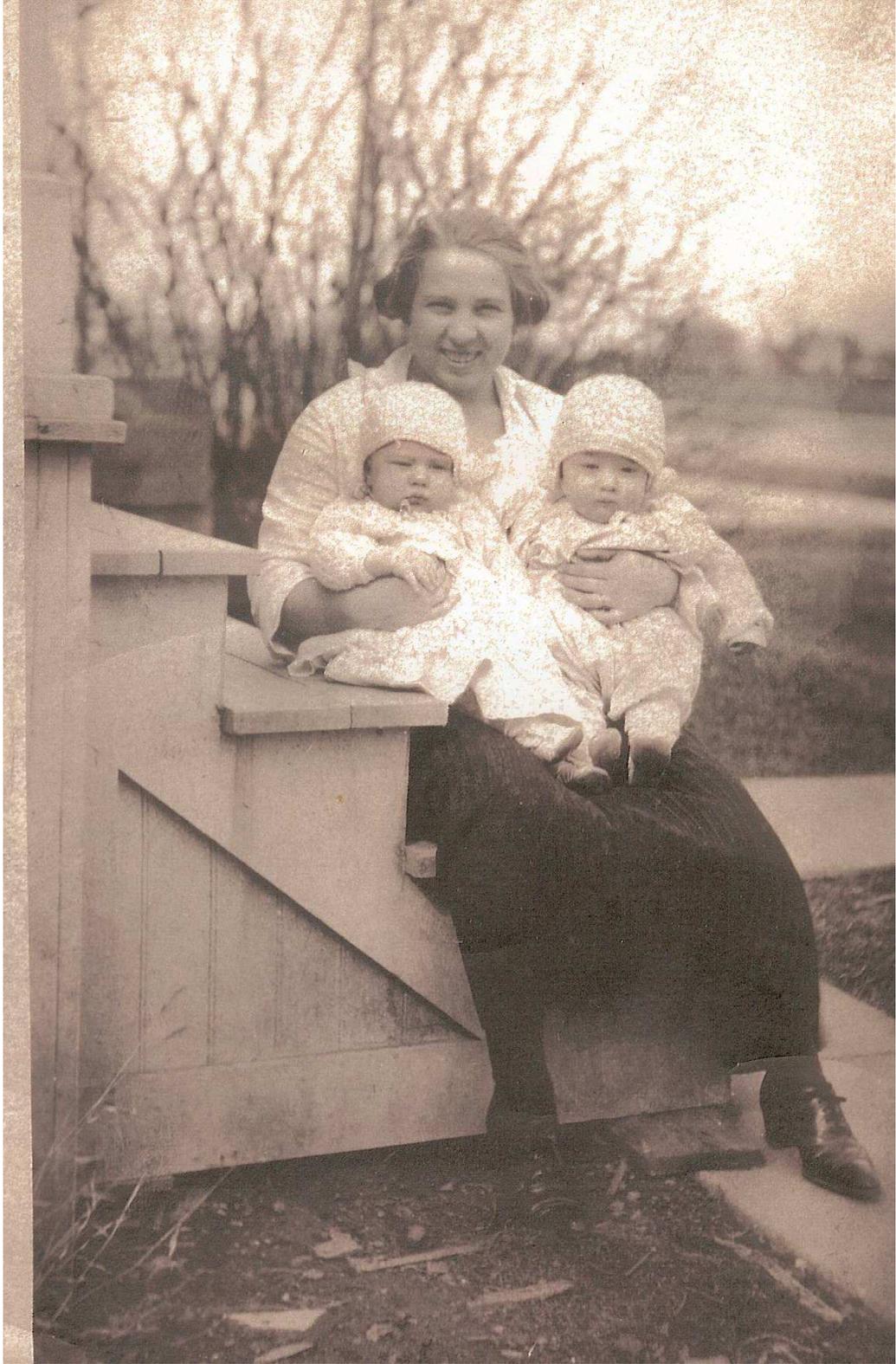
Norman Bender

1923

Mildred Bender Neff sitting on the Neff front porch in Grosse Pointe with the 2 boys in her arms.

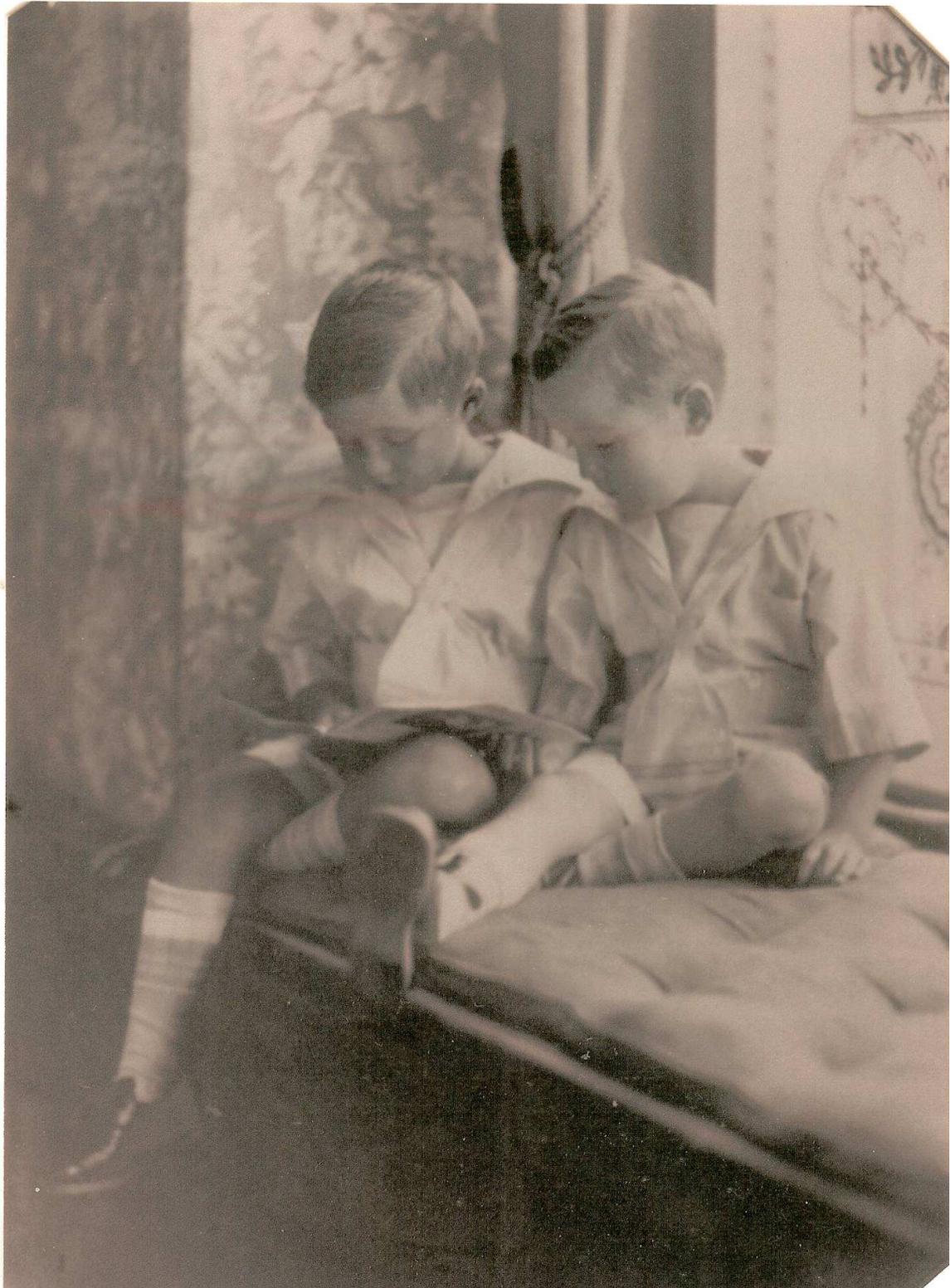
On the left is her own son, Bruce Neff and Harold's cousin's son, Stuart Neff.

Stuart was adopted by Harold and Mildred Neff. No one wanted Stuart when he was born. Mildred was forced by Mrs. Neff to take him as she had him first and felt she was too old to raise him. The grandmother of Stuart said "No one wants him now, but God won't take him back yet. God will wait until he grows up and everyone loves him, then he will take him. And that is exactly what happened. Stuart died in a car accident when he was 18 years old. He was a personable fellow and everyone liked him, just as his real grandmother predicted.



The 2 boys in this picture are Bruce Neff and Stuart Neff.

Bruce is the natural child of Mildred Bender Neff and Harold Neff Stuart was the illegitimate child of Harold's cousin who lived in St. Catherine's, Ontario. She came to Grosse Pointe to have the baby so no one in her home town would know she was pregnant. She gave birth to Stuart here, left the baby with Mrs. Neff, Harold's mother, and returned to St. Cathernes after her "vacation". Stuart's grandmother told Mrs. Neff to give the baby to a Neff in Grosse Pointe to raise. Mrs. Neff had him for awhile in the beginning but soon realized that she was much too old to raise an infant by herself, especially knowing that she found infant care to be very taxing. So she told Harold and Mildred that they were to take Stuart, who was the same age as Bruce, and raise them as though they were twins. Mildred balked at this idea, but Mrs. Neff prevailed.



Bruce Neff
son of Harold & Mildred Neff

Stuart Neff
adopted cousin

Here is a picture of Stuart Neff, left, Mildred Bender Neff, center, and Bruce Neff, right.

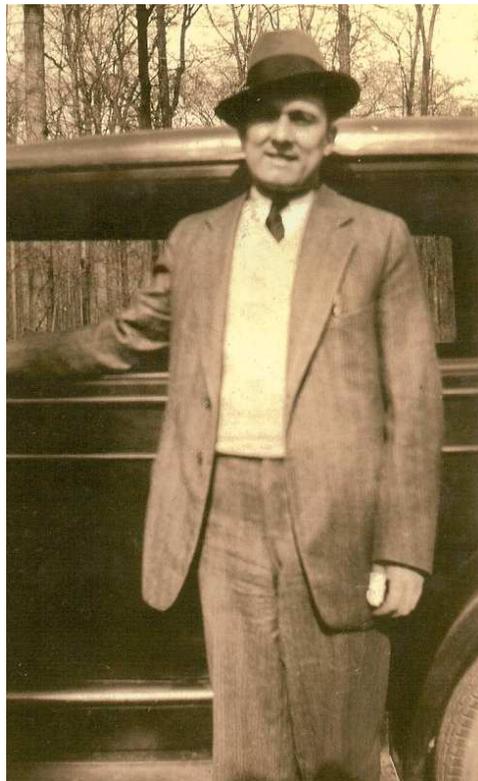


Stuart Neff Mildred Neff Bruce Neff 1925

Mildred lived in Grosse Pointe City and had park privileges at their park on Lake St. Clair. She often went there for picnics and to take the children swimming, often inviting relatives for the day.

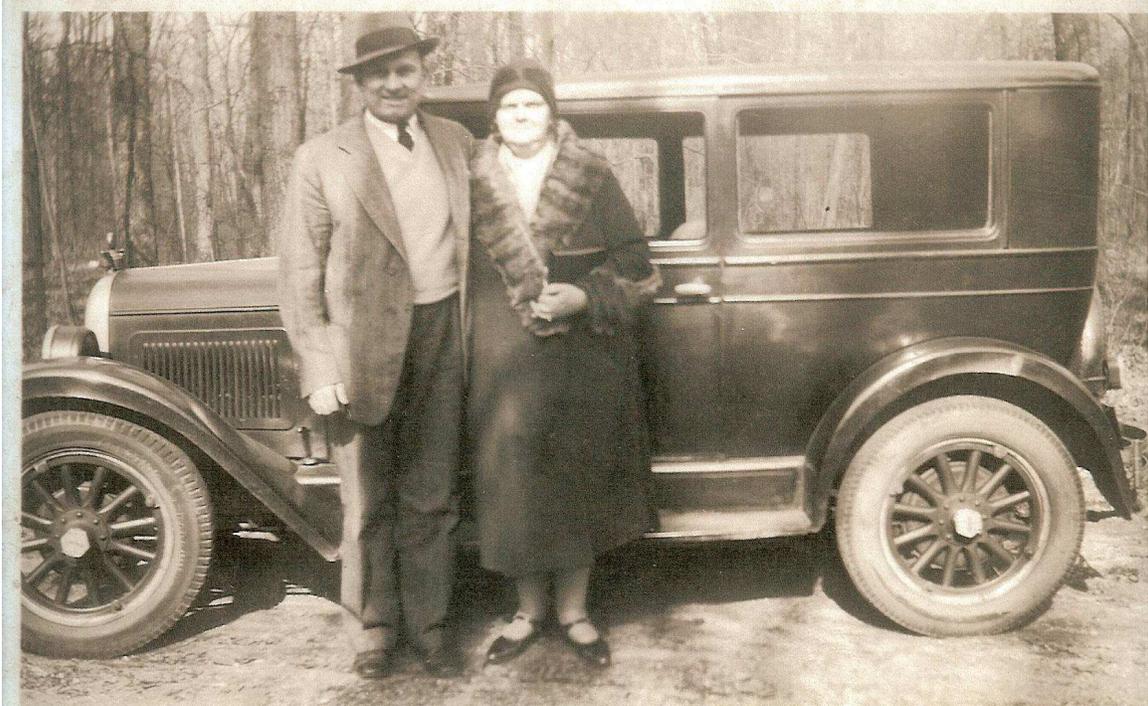
Elmer (Al) Bender in front of William Frederick Dahl's auto on Belle Isle in Detroit. (William is the father of Marie Dahl Bender and Elmer is the brother of Edward Bender).

Elmer never drove and never owned a car. He had had typhoid fever when he was 4 years old and was close to death and delirious. His mother and father, Elizabeth and Henry went out onto Gratiot in search of oranges. When they got back he was so far gone that Mildred thought he was dead. Elizabeth became totally hysterical and grabbed him and screamed for him to live. He lived but was simple for the rest of his life.



Elmer "Al" Bender

Elmer Bender and Nellie Rehfeldt Dahl in front of William Frederick Dahl's car at Belle Isle in 1928.



Al Henry Harold Bender & Nellie Dahl 1928

Grandma Elizabeth Bender always called her son “Elmer” and the family also called him “Al” but in the 1950’s Al sent away for his birth certificate and found he was named Henry Harold Bender. He was very proud to be named after his father and wanted to be called Henry. We then called him Harold.

Elmer “Al” Bender, Nellie Rehfeldt Dahl (Marie Bender’s mother), Fred Meinke (Nellie’s brother in law).



“Al” Elmer Bender Nellie Dahl Fred Meinke

This picture was taken at the side of the garage of Nellie’s sister Tillie Rehfeldt Doench Meinke around 1928.

Elmer Bender and Nellie Rehfeldt Dahl, Marie Dahl Bender's mother.



Harold "Elmer" Bender & Nellie Dahl

This picture was taken at the side of the garage of Nellie's sister Tillie Rehfeldt Doench Meinke around 1928.

Here is a picture of Nancy Bender Stephens on the left, the oldest child of Edward Paul Bender and Marie Dahl Bender and Mary Gamache on the right, the youngest child of Edward and Beatrice Gamache.

This picture was taken in 1936.

Marie Bender always said that 1935 was the year for babies in the Bender family – Carol Bender, Mary Gamache, Nancy Bender and Virginia Bender were all born in 1935.



Another picture of Nancy Bender Stephens in the wicker buggy and her cousin Mary Gamache standing.

This picture was taken in 1936.



Mary Gamache sitting in the grass with a bow in her hair.

This picture was taken in 1937.



Here is a picture of all of the children of Beatrice and Edward Gamache in the backyard.

From left: standing we have:

Eugene Gamache, Donald Gamache, David Gamache
Mary Gamache (sitting)



The Gamache children with others in the backyard.

We have:

Eugene Gamache upper, 2nd from left,

Mary Gamache, lower, 2nd from left,

Donald Gamache, 3rd from left upper,

David Gamache, 5th from left, upper.



Henry Charles “Hank” Bender, Norman John “Nobby” Bender and Elizabeth “Lizzie” Ott Bender.



Henry Bender, Norman Bender & Elizabeth Ott Bender

Norman is the brother of Edward Bender. Norman was the youngest living child of Hank and Lizzie. Lizzie lost a child between Art and Bea, 3 children between Elmer and Edward and 5 children between Edward and Norman. Norman was a very spoiled child as he was the only child to live among the many born between 1908 and 1913. He was fun but not too responsible.

Here is picture of, from left to right: Norman John Bender, Edward Paul Bender and Marie Dahl Bender.



Norman, Edward & Marie Bender 1936

Norman and Edward loved to play tennis together, in fact they loved playing all manner of sports together.

No, that is not a tennis racket in Marie's hand, it is dad's visor, the one with the green see through plastic that he wore for all out door sports. Mom did not know how to play tennis, in fact, she had no talent for any sport. She said in school, when they picked sides, she was always the very last one standing in line and both sides were always very vocal in not wanting her.

Here is a picture of the oldest of the Bender children. This picture was taken in 1936 at a family picnic.

In the upper row from left are: Elizabeth Ott Bender and Henry Charles Bender.

In the middle row from left are Eugene Gamache, Robert Neff Clyde Bender, David Gamache and Monacaire Bender Peters.

Bottom row from left are Marie Dahl Bender, Nancy Bender Stephens, Mary Gamache, Donald Gamache and Sally Neff Kujat.



Elizabeth Ott Bender and Henry Charles Bender in 1936.



Elizabeth Ott Bender and Henry Charles Bender 1936

Marie Bender said that when she married Ed and met his mother, Elizabeth was 53 years old. However, even though she was still relatively young, she always appeared worn out and very, very tired. She had a very hard life and was old before her time.

Elizabeth Ott Bender and Henry Charles Bender in 1937.



Elizabeth Ott Bender & Henry Charles Bender 1937

From left: Beatrice Bender Gamache, Mildred Bender Neff, Sally Neff Kujat and Elizabeth Ott Bender.

This picture was taken about 1938.

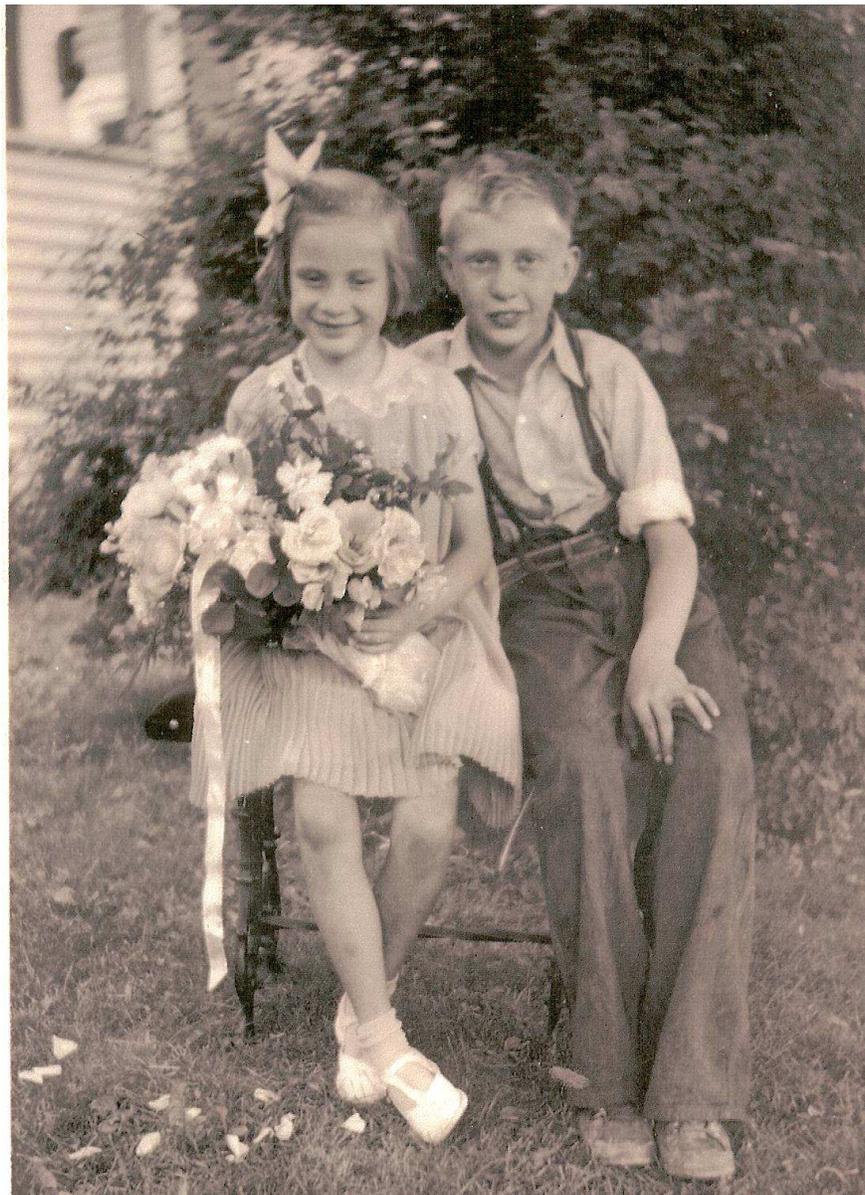


Beatrice	Mildred	Sally	Elizabeth
Bender	Bender	Neff	Ott
Gamache	Neff	Kujat	Bender

Sally Neff Kujat and her brother Robert Neff.

Sally and Robert are the children of Mildred Bender Neff and Harold Neff.

Picture was taken about 1938.



Sally Neff Kujat

Robert Neff

1938

From left: Elizabeth Ott Bender Beatrice Bender Gamache and Marie Dahl Bender.

This picture was taken about 1938.



Elizabeth
Bender

Beatrice
Gamache

Marie
Bender

From left: Beatrice Bender Gamache, Elizabeth Ott Bender, Edward Paul Bender, Mildred Bender Neff and Henry Charles Bender.

This picture was taken in about 1939.



From left: Elizabeth Ott Bender, Marie Dahl Bender,
Henry Charles Bender, Beatrice Bender Gamache,
Mildred Bender Neff and Evelyn Reid Bender.



This picture was taken about 1940.

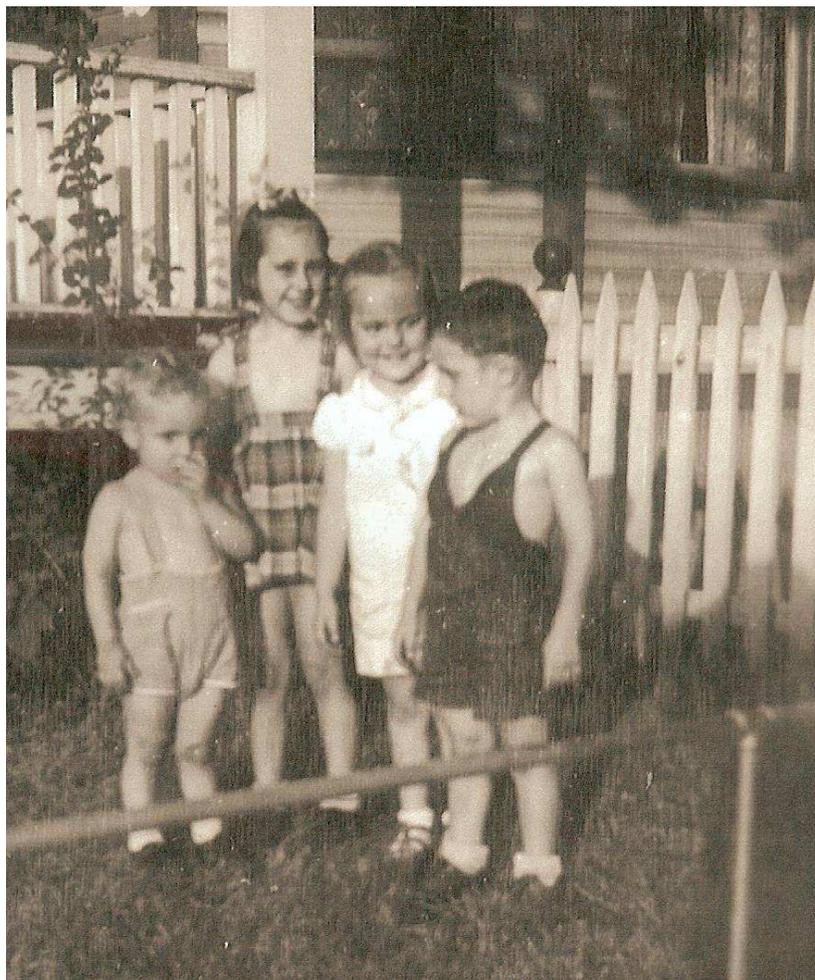
The features of Elizabeth and Hank are somewhat distorted in this picture.

Here is a picture of the oldest of the Bender children:

Left: Richard Bender, Virginia Bender, Nancy Bender Stephens and Gary Bender.

Richard, Virginia and Gary Bender are the children of Norman and Evelyn Bender. Nancy is the daughter of Edward and Marie Bender.

This picture was taken about 1940.



Richard Virginia Nancy Gary Bender

Nancy Bender's 6th birthday party. Present at this party, from left to right were:

?, Michael Bender, Virginia Bender, Richard Bender, Sally Neff, Delores Bender and Nancy Bender Stephens.

This picture was taken in 1941.



? Mick Virginia Richard Sally Delores Nancy
Bender Bender Bender Neff Bender Bender

Here is a group of Bender children.

Upper, from left:

Virginia Bender, ? , Sally Neff.

Middle, from, left: Richard Bender, Gary Bender and Nancy Bender.

Lower; from left: Delores Bender, Michael Bender and Mary Gamache.

Picture taken in 1942



The Bender families went on a lot of picnics in the 1930's and 1940's. Present at this picnic were from left, clockwise:

Mickey Bender, Nancy Bender, Harold Neff, Virginia Bender, Gary Bender, Evelyn Bender, Norman Bender, Delores Bender, Mildred Neff, Marie Bender and Elizabeth Bender.



Mike Bender Nancy Bender Harold Neff Virginia Bender Gary Bender Evelyn Bender Norman Bender Mildred Neff Elizabeth Bender

Marie Dahl Bender, Harold Neff and Mildred Bender Neff on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Ed and Marie Bender went on vacation with Harold and Mildred Neff to Traverse City and Interlochen around 1940. They stayed at a lodge where food was included. The first course was celery and carrot sticks. The men ignored them, waiting for real stick to your ribs food. When the dinner came it was so meager that the men ended up diving into the carrot and celery sticks to fill up on!



Marie Bender Harold Neff & Mildred Neff at Wildwood resort

Elmer “Al” Bender and Elsie Bender on their wedding day in 1944.



Elsie Ehodes Dalton Bender & Elmer “Al” Bender

Elizabeth Ott Bender, Elmer’s mother was upset when she heard that Elmer was getting married as he had been living with her and she had been looking after him. But Elsie proved to be very good for Elmer. She was very good to him and gave him a very happy, stable life from 1944 to 1955 when she suddenly died of a heart attack. She was in a wheelchair in those years but Elmer attentively wheeled her everywhere.

Elsie Bender, wife of Elmer Bender from 1944 to 1955.



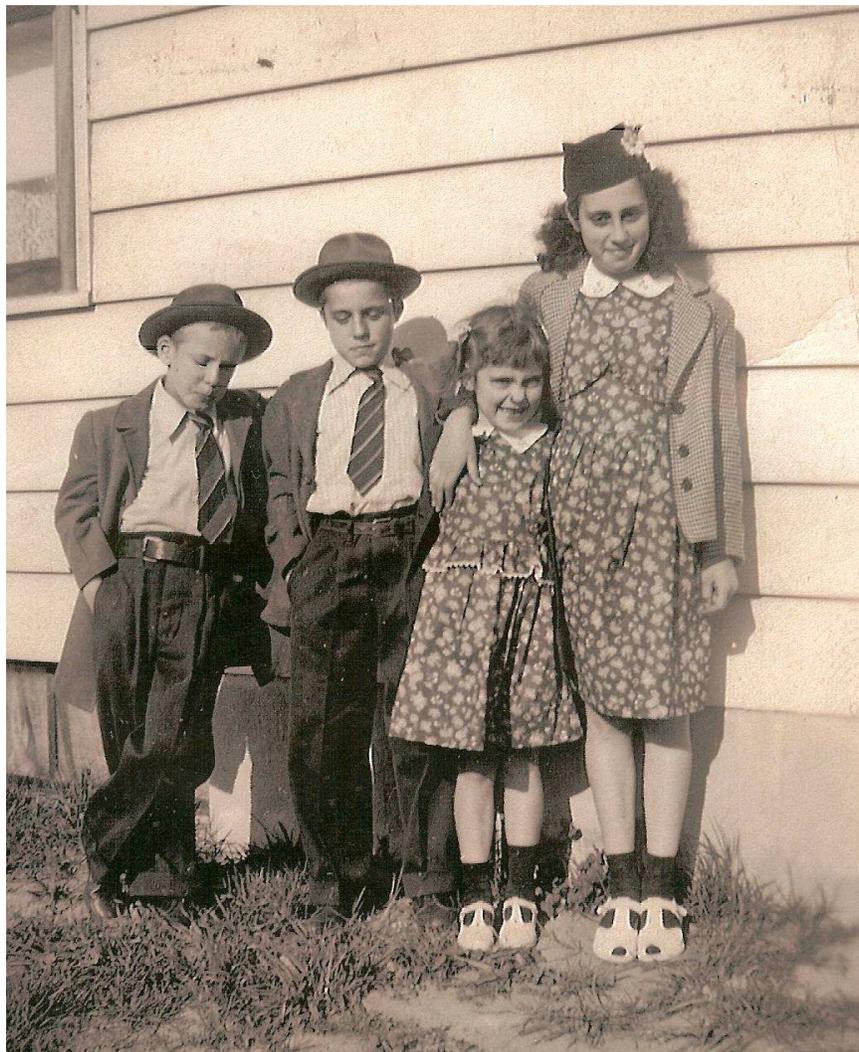
Elsie Rhoads Bender, wife of Harold Bender

They lived together in the Parkside Projects in the Warren - Conner area. Elmer was shocked and devastated when Elsie suddenly died of a heart attack. He would not go into or sleep in their bedroom for over a year. He slept on the living room couch and even strung a wash line diagonal across the living room and hung all his clothes on it. After a year Mel had enough of it and hung his clothes back in his bedroom and made him sleep there again.

This is a picture of the older children of Norman and Evelyn Bender. Pinky was born in 1947, a year or two after this picture was taken.

From left, the children in this picture are Richard Bender, Gary Bender, Delores Bender and Virginia Bender.

This picture was taken about 1946.



Richard Gary Delores Virginia
children of Norman & Evelyn Bender

This is Monaclaire Bender Peters graduation picture taken in 1947. She is the daughter of Arthur Bender Sr. and Agnes Radtke Bender.



Monaclaire Bender Peters

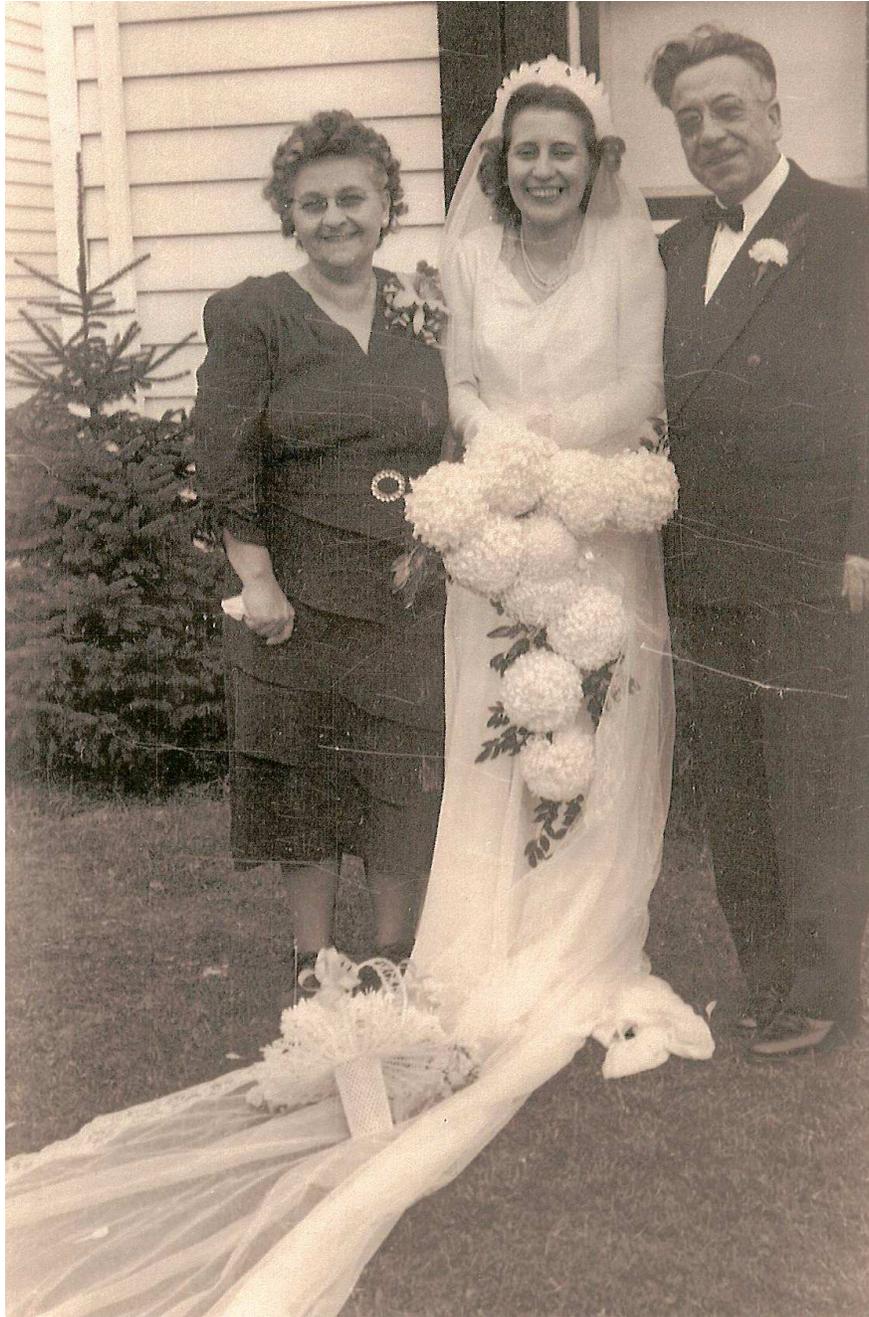
Here is Monaclaire and Robert Peters on their wedding day. Most of the attendants at the wedding are Monaclaire's relatives:

Olive & Clyde Bender, Sally Neff Kujat, Robert Peters & Monaclaire Bender, ? child, Carol Bender Meyer, and 2 of Robert's relatives.



Olive Clyde Sally Robert Monaclaire ? Carol
Bender Neff Peters Peters Bender

Monaclaire Peters on her wedding day with her parents, Arthur Francis and Agnes Radtke Bender.



That marriage was a loving and long lasting one, producing many children and grandchildren.

Here is a family portrait of the Harold and Mildred Bender Neff family.

Upper: Harold Neff and Mildred Bender Neff.

Lower: from left, Bruce Neff, Sally Neff Kujat and Robert Neff.



This picture was taken by Edward Paul Bender in Harold and Mildred's home on St. Clair in Grosse Pointe Park in 1947.

Here is my favorite picture of Mildred Bender Neff.



Mildred Bender Neff

This picture was taken by Edward Bender in Edward's home at 4651 Alter Road in Detroit. For years Marie had this picture of Mildred and the next picture of Harold Neff side by side in her photo album. It makes such a cute pair of bookends.

Here is the “matching” picture of Harold Neff taken by Edward Bender at his house on Alter Road in Detroit on the same night as the previous picture.



Harold Neff 1947

Harold and Mildred Neff on a summer night in 1948 in Edward's house on Alter Rd in Detroit.



Harold and Mildred Neff

1948

Mildred Bender Neff in Edward's house on Alter Rd in 1948.



Mildred Neff at Edward Bender's house

Edward had purchased a German Robot camera, such as those used in World War II on the wings of fighter planes, a German Rolleiflex and a German Supericontra and he was using these cameras to take the 1940's and 1950's pictures of the family such as you see here. The Robot used bulk film which had to be loaded onto a spool in a darkroom bag. Dad had a light meter to determine f stop and exposure.

Here is a picture of Mildred Bender Neff, Sally Neff Kujat and Harold Neff in the backyard of their house on St. Clair in Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan.



Mildred Neff Sally Neff Harold Neff

Harold built this home from scratch. He said that Grandpa Henry Charles Bender helped to excavate the basement for this house. Henry borrowed Huntz Manzel's horses, Nancy and Jim and a huge scoop. He then guided the horses to pull the scoop across the area where they wanted to dig the basement. The horses pulled the dirt out of this area, creating a basement.

Here is a picture of Sally Kujat Neff with Harold's 2 dogs, Boots and Sissie. Marie Bender was afraid of these dogs, so when Sally was in the backyard with her arms around these 2 dogs, Marie would call her in from the safety of Harold's house. Harold said Sissie was dependable but Boots could be quirky at times.

Note Harold's Hudson auto in his drive way.



“Boots”

Sally

“Sissie”

Here is another picture of Bob Neff and Sally Neff Kujat, children of Harold and Mildred Bender Neff.

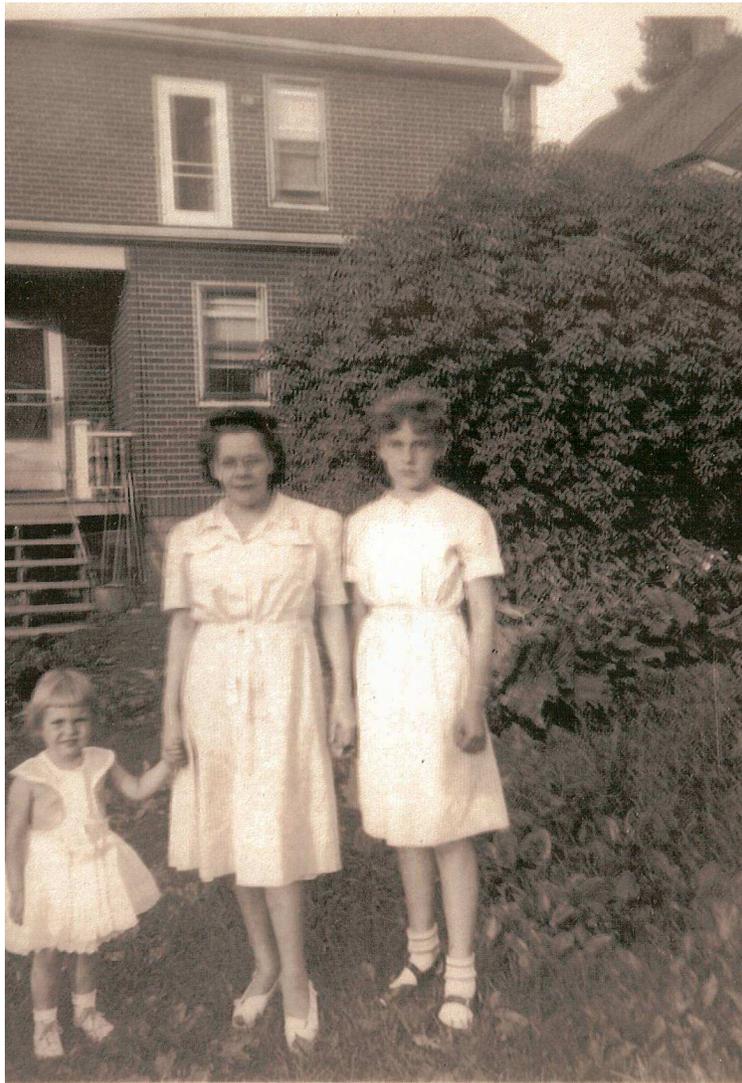
Bob and Sally are sitting on their back steps in the back yard of their home on St. Clair in Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Note Bob's bike on the side of the house.



Sally & Bob Neff

Here is a picture of Sandy Bender Wilhelm, left, Marie Dahl Bender, center, and Nancy Bender Stephens on the right.



Sandy Marie Nancy Bender

This picture was taken in the back yard of the Neff house on St. Clair in Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan.

This picture was taken about 1948.

Mildred Bender Neff and Harold Neff in Edward Bender's house on Alter Rd in 1948.



Mildred & Harold Neff cutting records at Ed Bender's house 1948

At this evening get together, Edward was both taking pictures of the family and also cutting records of their voices at the same time. This was done during 1947 - 1948.

Mildred Bender Neff and her mother, Elizabeth Ott Bender.



Mildred Bender Neff and Elizabeth Ott Bender

This picture was taken at the house of Elizabeth's son, Edward Bender.

Edward used to cut records in the 1940s and in this picture Elizabeth is cutting a record talking to her grandchildren in 1948.

Elizabeth died 2 years after this picture was taken. Her cataract problem is evident in this picture.

Elizabeth Ott Bender with her grandchild, William Henry Bender, who is the son of Edward Paul Bender.



Bill Bender & Elizabeth Ott Bender, Bill's grandmother

Bill was one year, 7 days old in this picture. Elizabeth died 20 months after this picture was taken. At this time Elizabeth was suffering from stomach cancer, diabetes and cataracts.

The picture was taken on Jan. 9, 1949.

Here is a picture of Bruce Neff and his new bride Bernadette. Bruce is the son of Harold Neff and Mildred Bender Neff.

Bruce and Bernadette had one son, Keith. Edward Bender was Keith's godfather at his christening.



Bernadette & Bruce Neff

25 years later, another war, another Bender going off to the service of his country.

From left: Clyde Bender, Grandfather Henry Charles Bender, Donald Francis Bender, Arthur Francis Bender Sr., the boys' father.



Clyde Bender Henry Bender Donald Bender Arthur Bender Sr.

Arthur Francis Bender Sr.



This is my favorite, picture of Uncle Art. It was taken by my father Edward Bender at my sister, Nancy Bender Stephens' wedding reception the 1st of December, 1951. Looking at this picture I realize how much I miss my Uncle Art. I used to ride my bike to his house and sit in the living room and listen to his family history stories by the hour. Aunt Agnes used to go into the kitchen saying, "Oh no, now she's got him going again!!".

This Bender picnic was only attended by Art, Agnes, Marie and Edward Bender.



Marie Bender Harrison Park, Owen Sound Agnes & Art Bender

This picnic took place in Owen Sound, Ontario in July, 1951. Ed, Art, Marie and Agnes went on vacation together that year. First they went, to Look About Lodge on Lake Huron for a week, then they went through Owen Sound to Collingwood and the Martyr's Shrine. Then on to the 30,000 Islands. Marie almost got locked into the church there when the Priest didn't see her praying in the pew.

Here Art, Agnes, and Marie Bender are on the upper deck of the ship at Midland, Canada. They also took a smaller ship through the 30,000 Islands in the same area. One area was so hard to maneuver that the young captain would step back from the wheel and ancient “Davy Jones” would step up, get the boat through a very tight narrow channel, then step down and let the young fellow recaptain the ship.



Arthur & Agnes Bender & Marie Bender in Midland Canada

Here is a picture of Marie, Art and Agnes having a very good time on the last leg of what was a very happy vacation.



Marie Bender

Art & Agnes Bender

1951

Art loved the Lion's Head area of the Bruce Peninsula so much that he had hoped to purchase a cottage here. Ed and Marie loved the area too but it was impractical to buy as we only had a few weeks vacation every year, so from 1953 to 1994 we would rent a cottage in Lion's Head almost every year.

Here is a slightly different picture as the one on the previous page. Edward was the one taking the picture of Marie, Art and Agnes.

As you can see here boats in those days were made of wood and a lot more primitive than today's models. The accommodations at the Look About Isles were also much more primitive - the cabins, were very small and were serviced by an out house. One bathed in Lake Huron. All the roads, even the main Hwy 6 were dirt and very steep.



Marie Bender

Art & Agnes Bender
Look - A - Bout Isles

1951

This picture of Norman John Bender, left, and Arthur Bender Sr, right, was taken on December 1, 1951 at Nancy Bender Stephens wedding.

Arthur was 55 at the time and had had either a heart attack or a stroke 4 years earlier at the Star Ballroom on Utica Road near 12 Mile Road. Art had been a DSR motorman for many years. He enjoyed his job and loved socializing with the other drivers at the car barn. He used to partake in checker matches with the fellows. Art also loved to play cards including pinochle and bridge. He was a very intense bridge player and at the senior citizen center Agnes used to play across the room from him as she was embarrassed by his outbursts, but she had to admit he was scrupulously fair in his research - he would bring his Hoyle into the next card playing session and expound on the right or wrong of the play in question.



Norman & Arthur Bender 1951

Pinky (Ronald) Bender, youngest child of Norman and Evelyn Bender.

This picture was taken at Warren Canyon Park, Detroit in 1951. Norman sent Pinky for pop for the guys on this day. He gave him some money and told him to walk 5 blocks away and cross Warren Avenue all by himself and bring the pop back. I (Sandy Bender) offered to go with him to help him cross the major street and carry the pop back. Even though I was 4 years older than Pinky, Ed wouldn't let me cross the big street by myself. So little Pinky went alone.



Ronald "Pinky" Bender

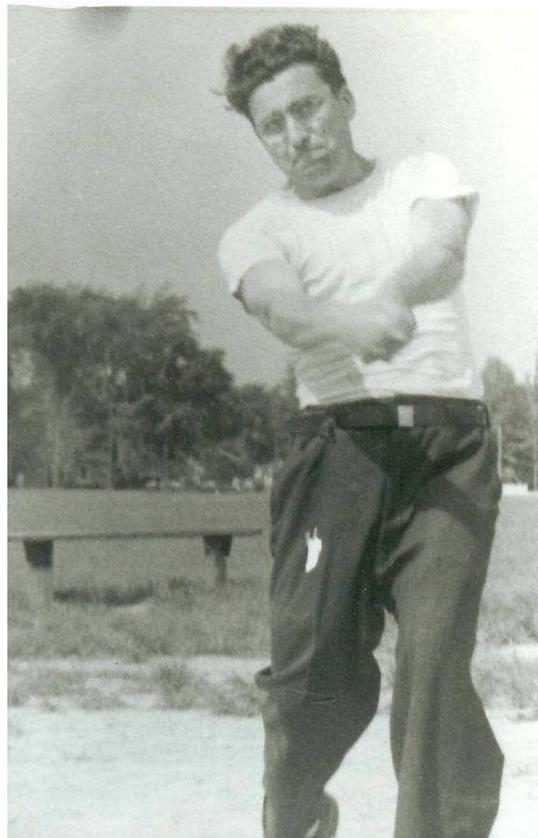
Norman like Ed loved to play baseball and they spent many long hours playing baseball or tennis or golf together. Norman, like Ed was an excellent athlete, in fact as a teenager Norman was such an excellent pitcher that he almost made the minor leagues. Ed said that Norman did not make the grade for the simple reason that he could not remain focused throughout the whole game and would start pitching wild. Norman had a bad a temper when he lost at sports. When dad won a tennis match Norman would smash his racket against the fence. When Norman would make a number of flub shots in golf he would wrap his club around the tree. Ed and Norman played sports together on a regular basis until Nobby went to California and then New York. When he came back to Michigan Norm's health was failing so the sports playing was never resumed. Norman died of a stroke at the young age of 57.



Norman Bender

Here is another shot of Norman playing ball with Edward at Warren Canyon Park in Detroit.

Norman also worked for Edward at his TV and appliance store for many years, at both his stores at 9100 and 9110 Mack Avenue as well as at 16389 Warren Avenue, near Corville in Detroit. Norman repaired washers and TVs. When Norman returned from New York, Ed paid for him to go to school to learn color TV repair but Norman said it was too complicated. In truth it was no doubt due to the fact that Norman was much sicker than he realized and was much older than his years.



Norman Bender

Here is my favorite picture of Norman Bender. It was taken on December 1, 1951 at Nancy Bender Stephens wedding reception.

I always had a special place in my heart for Norman. He was always a lot of fun to be with and he had a great sense of humor. His laughter was infectious, when he laughed you had to laugh, whether the joke was funny or not. He was married to Evelyn Reid and they had 5 children, Virginia, Gary, Richard, Delores and Pinky (Ronald). Evelyn divorced him in about the 1950s and he went to live in California for awhile and then drove to New York to be near his son. When he moved back to Michigan he lived with his brother Elmer until he died in 1970. Norman could not see outside due to severe cataracts and could not walk very far as his legs hurt. Al had an old age pension which Mildred and Edward supplemented with food and money. One day Norman was fixing their TV set when his hand started moving all by itself. He was fascinated by it. Later he went to the hospital and was told he had a stroke. A priest walked into his room and sweet talked Norm into his last confession and then gave him the last Rites of the Church. Norman died on the 9th of December, 1970.



Norman John Bender

1951

This is a picture of Evelyn Bender, wife of Norman John Bender. They had 5 children together, Virginia, Gary, Richard, Delores and Pinky (Ronald). They lived on Farmbrook on the east side of Detroit.

Evelyn was a very strong woman. Once in Ed's store she came in as Norman was struggling to turn a washing machine over to repair it. Evelyn declared to Ed and Norman, "I can do that!". Norm rose to the challenge with a laugh, knowing how heavy such a machine was. Go ahead, let's see, he told her. She grasped a broken machine, flipped it over, looked it over and proceeded to fix the problem. Well, I'll be darned was Ed's answer. He had a new found respect for her strength.

Evelyn divorce Norm in the 1950s and married Roger Valcke. When he died, she married Toots Manzel, Huntz Manzel's son. (Huntz was Grandpa Henry Bender's employer, the owner of the sod farm and the 2 horses, Nancy and Jim that Grandpa used to manage in the sod cutting business).

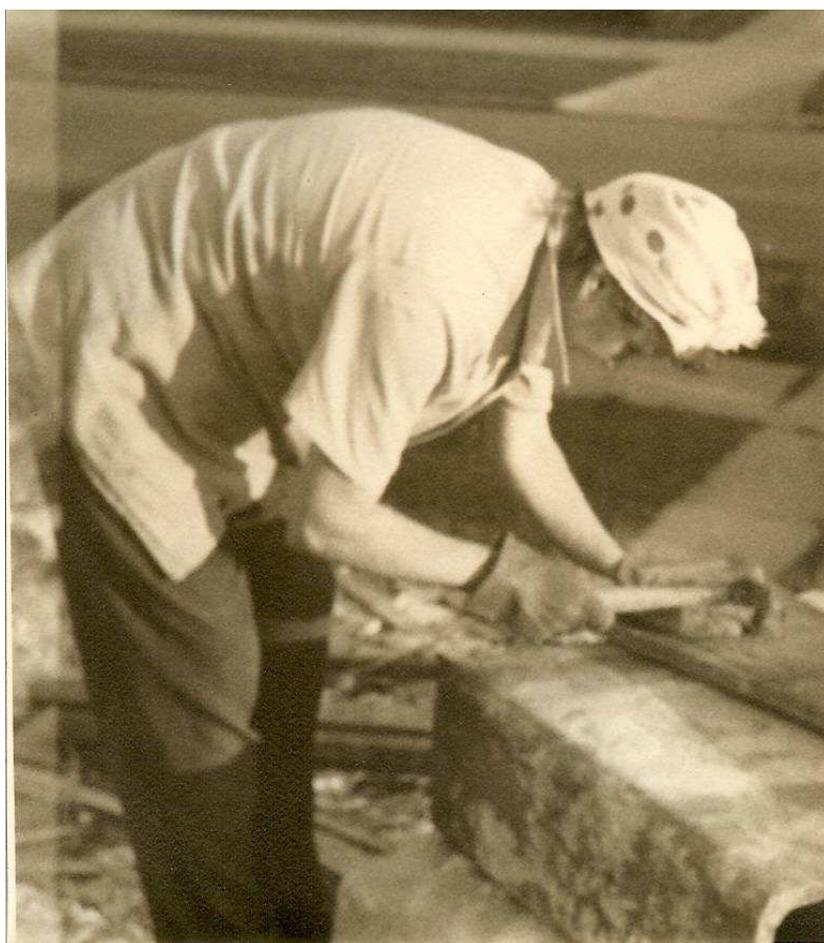
Evelyn's last known residence was in Capac, Michigan. She would periodically visit Marie Bender at her home in Utica, Michigan.



Evelyn Reid Bender, wife of Norman

Here is a picture of Beatrice Bender Gamache helping to raze the house that Harold Neff bought on the Grosse Pointe High school grounds.

Harold bought the house really cheaply with the stipulation that he had to tear it down and remove all materials. Bea and Mickey Bender among others helped him to carefully raze it to use the materials to build his Clinton Township home on Glenwood. It took 7 years to finish. Bea stepped on a nail and had to get medical care as she was diabetic.



Here is a picture of Beatrice Bender Gamache in Sally Neff Kujat's home in the south.

Bea went on vacation with her sister Mildred to visit Sally and her infant.



Here is a picture of Beatrice Gamache holding Sally Neff Kujat's oldest child while on vacation with her Sister Mildred Bender Neff in the south.



Here is a picture of Harold Neff, Edward Gamache and Beatrice Gamache celebrating Christmas with friends in December, 1957. This picture came from Mildred Bender Neff' s collection.



Harold
Neff

Edward
Gamache

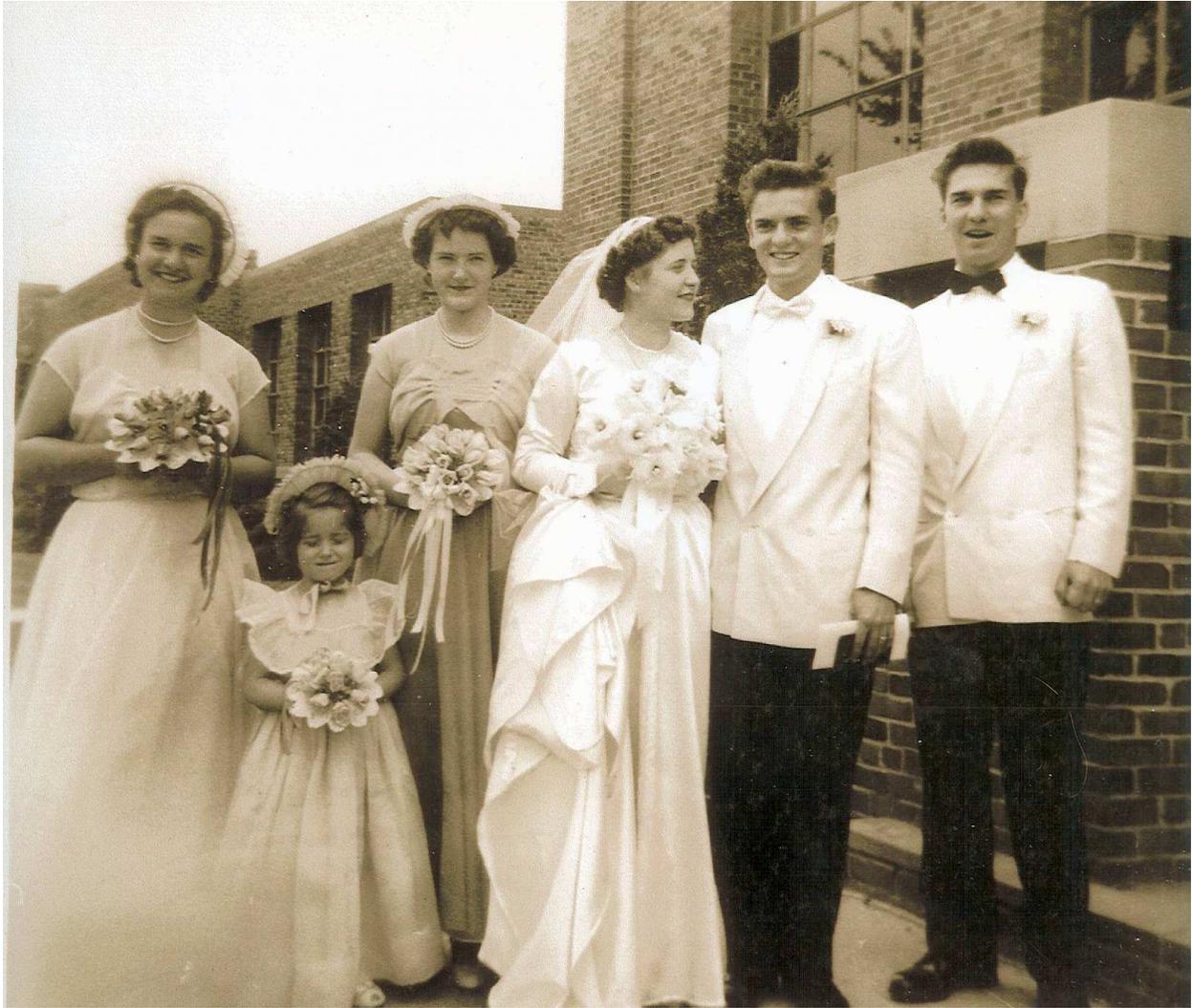
Beatrice
Bender
Gamache

This picture was taken at David & Shirley Gamache's wedding day.



Mary Gamache Edward Gamache Olive & Clyde Bender

This picture was taken at David & Shirley Gamache's wedding day.



Mary
Gamache

Shirley
Gamache

David
Gamache

This is a picture of Carol Bender Myers, daughter of Arthur Bender Sr. and Agnes Radtke Bender when she was a nun.



Carol Bender Meyer (Sister Mary Hugh) 1952

Carol attended Servite High School in the first graduating class of 1952. She entered the convent after high school as one of 7 women who entered the convent in Omaha Nebraska from Detroit. There were 12 women in that novice class. They were called the 12 star, a reference, to the 12 stars in the Blessed Virgin's crown. She left the convent about 5 years later as she did not like teaching school. She took a job at Blue Cross and shortly afterwards met and married Lou Myers, the boy next door to her parents.

Carol Bender Myers' wedding announcement.

In September of 1962 Carol married Lou Myers, the boy next door. He was a Detroit Policeman. Among her wedding attendants were her sister Monaclaire Peters and Monaclaire's oldest daughter Julie. Among the men in her party was Monaclaire's husband, Robert Peters.

The Myers had 2 sons. Both of her sons somewhat resembled Nancy Bender Stephens' youngest son, Craig, who were all of about the same age.

Edward Bender was Carol's Godparent.

ED'S
GOD CHILD 1962
SEPT 15

Newlyweds Travel East to Honeymoon

The former Carol May Bender, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur F. Bender, and her husband, Louis R. Meyers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis L. Meyers, all of Neff road, are honeymooning in Montreal and the New England states.

Their wedding at St. Philomena Church on Saturday was followed with a breakfast and evening reception at Knights of Columbus Hall.

The bride wore a taffeta gown featuring a chapel train and Alencon lace bodice. A crown of lace and pearls held her veil and she carried a crescent bouquet of roses, mums and ivy.

Monaclaire Peters, sister of the bride was the honor attendant and bridesmaids were Mary Ellen Bemis, Maxine Kiefer, Olive Bender and Julian Peters. They carried red roses and baby mums.

Richard Kroll was best man. Completing the esquire side were Raymond Fisher, Robert Peters and Gary Strauss.



MRS. MEYERS

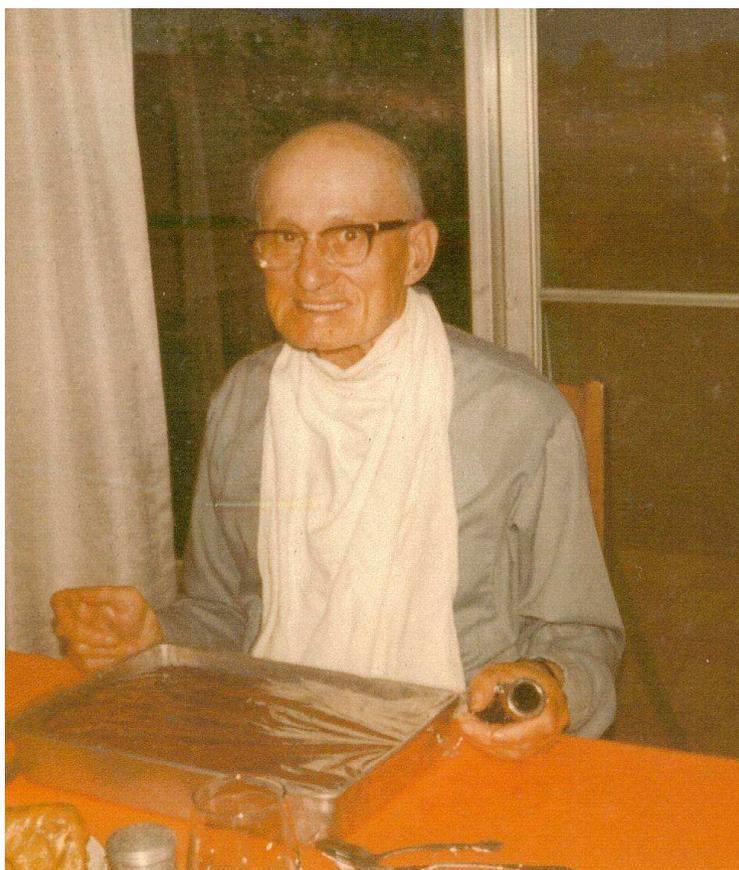
Uncle Elmer in the last years of his life.



Elmer "Al" Bender 1974

In 1957, 2 years after Elsie's death, Elmer was told he had throat cancer. They removed his voice box and for there rest of his days he had to talk by the use of this vibratory machine. Mildred was later told by another doctor that Elmer did not have throat cancer, that he had lost his voice from so much loud crying over having lost his beloved Elsie.

In this Picture we were celebrating Uncle Elmer's birthday, on May 2, 1971 in Edward's home at 11284 Diamond, Sterling Heights, Michigan.



Elmer Bender

Elmer was in a nursing home at this time of his life. Uncle Norman Bender had moved in with Elmer after Edward got him released from the hospital in Bingham, New York about 1965 and lived with Elmer until his death in 1970. After Norman's death in 1970, Elmer was too weak to live alone and so went into a nursing home. Elmer died in June, 1977.

Mildred Bender Neff, Edward Gamache, Marie Dahl Bender and Edward Paul Bender in David Gamache's back yard celebrating Ed Gamache's birthday.



Edward Gamache, Shirley Gamache and David Gamache in David's backyard celebrating Edward Gamache's birthday.



This is a picture of Clyde Bender taken the day Edward Bender was buried. This was taken in the backyard of Edward's home at 45430 Grant Park in Utica. Clyde is the son of Arthur Bender Sr. and Agnes Radtke Bender.

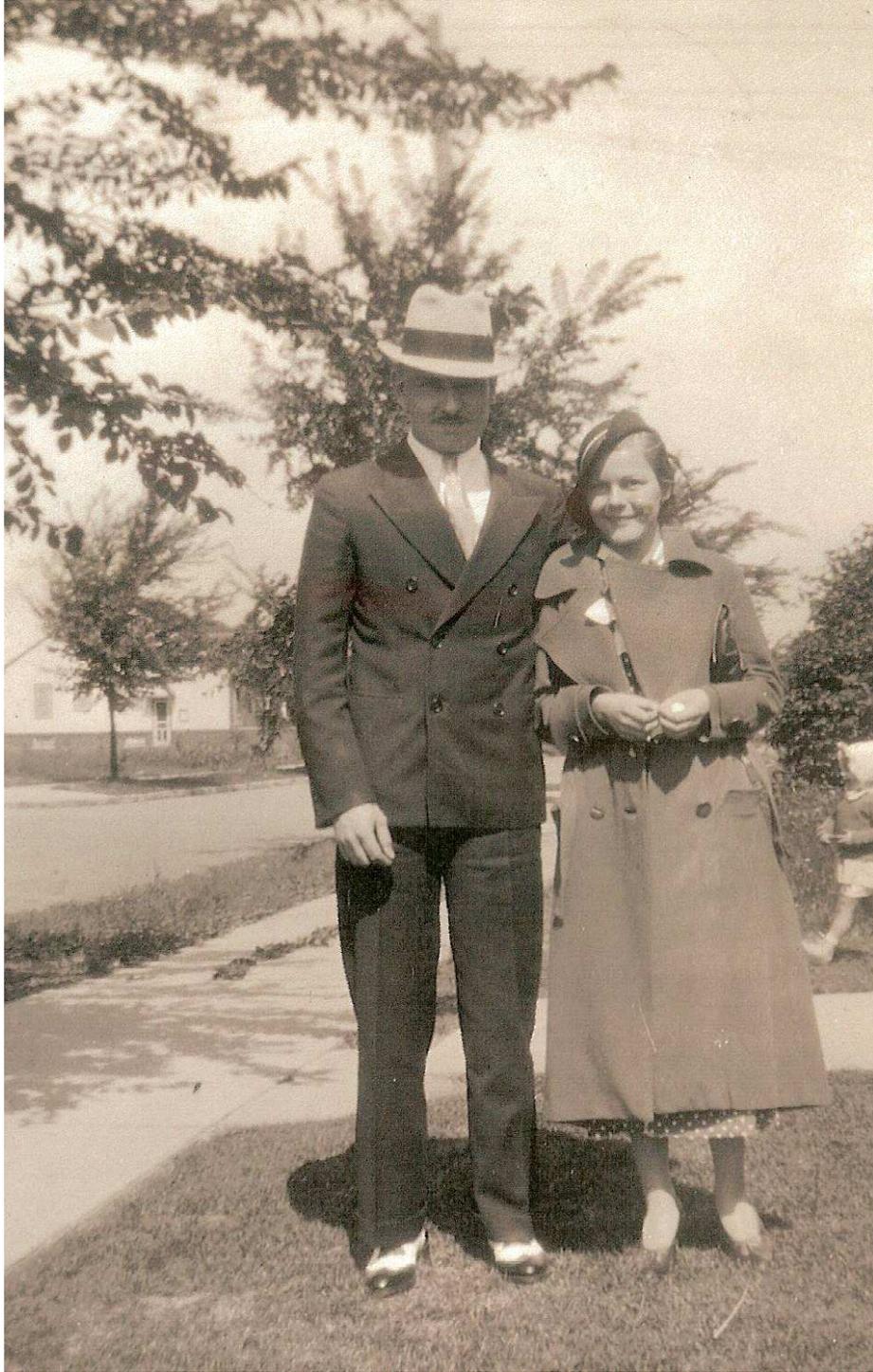


Clyde Bender

Edward Bender's Family

Edward Paul Bender and Marie Dahl Bender on their wedding day, August 25, 1934.

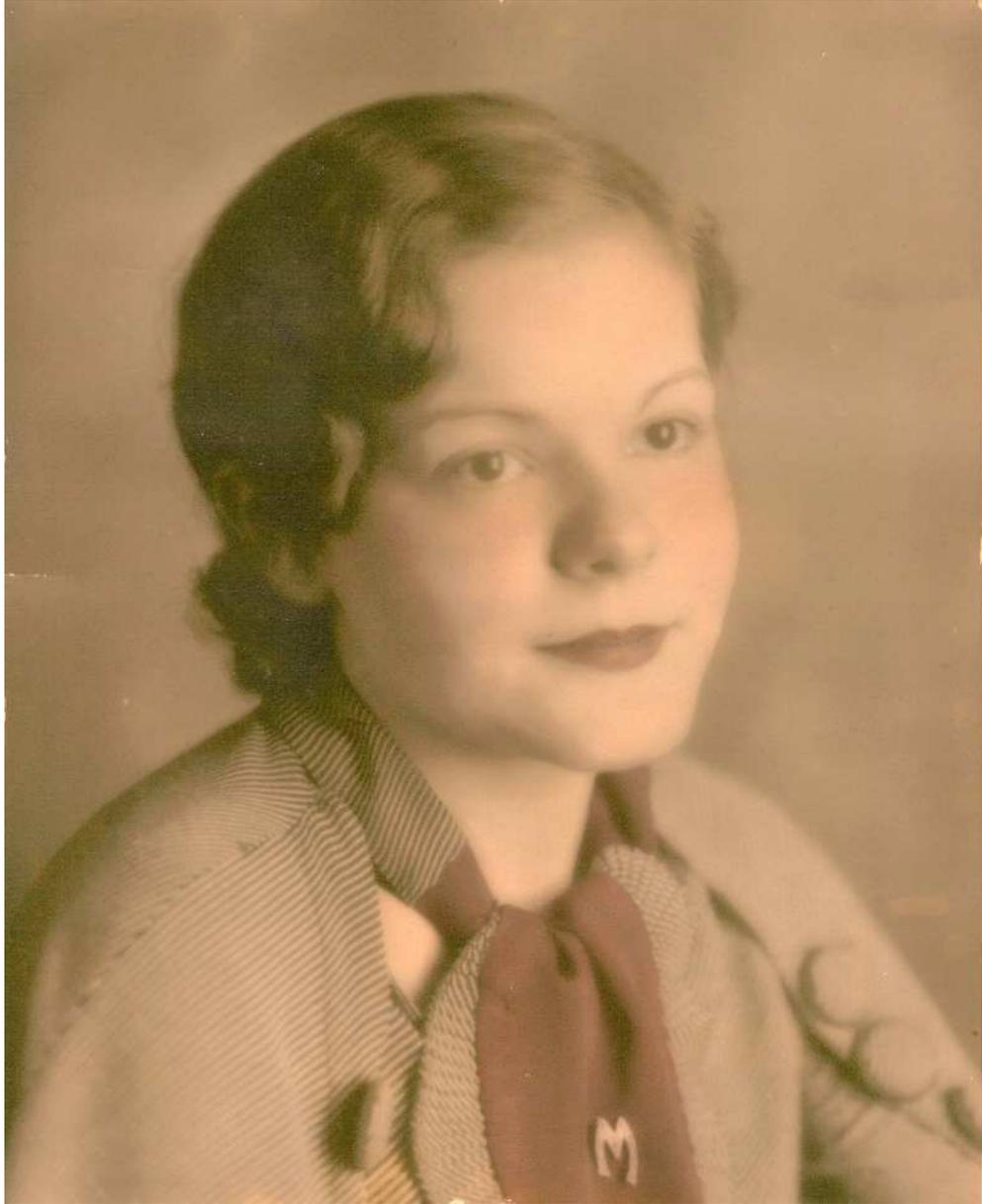
They got married in the depth of the depression so there was no money for a big family celebration. Therefore they decided to get married quietly and tell no one till later. Agnes Bender baited Ed by telling him there was no way could ever get married without her knowing about it as the banns were published in one's parish church and also marriage license applications were published in the local Detroit Newspaper. Well Ed took up the challenge and won the bet. He and Marie got married in Our Lady of Sorrows Belgium Catholic Church. This church only published the banns in their own parish. And when he took out the marriage license he bribed the newspaper clerk with a \$5 bill to not publish his license. Then to add the finishing touch on this bet, he used Agnes' brother Joe Radtke as his best man.



Edward Bender & Marie Dahl, Aug 25, 1934 wedding day

Marie Dahl Bender shortly before their wedding in 1934. Edward wanted this picture taken so that he could have a permanent remembrance of what his bride looked like when he met her.

They met on February 7, 1934. Edward bought a new used car and was very excited about it. He ran right home to show his brother Norman. He ran into the house and asked his mom where Nobby was. She said he was in the upstairs flat playing cards with the Dahl boys. Ed ran right upstairs and found Marie sitting in the kitchen watching the card game. Ed was so enamored with Marie that he never did show Norman his new car. They had their first date on Valentine's Day and Ed asked Marie to marry him 6 weeks later. Marie held out for 6 months to make sure they were really compatible. They were very much so. As Ed lay dying his last words to Marie were "I love you, Marie".

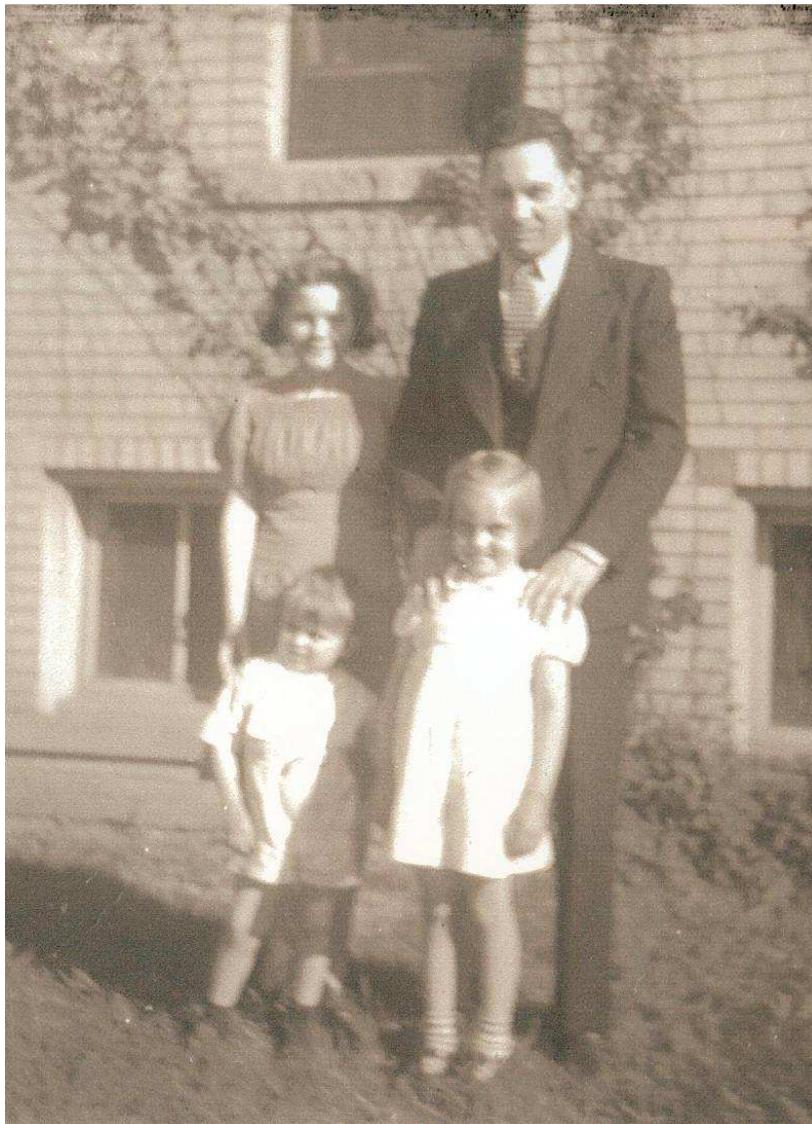


Marie Dahl 1934

The Edward Bender family as they were in 1941.

Upper from left: Marie Dahl Bender and Edward Paul Bender

Lower from left: Michael Edward Bender and Nancy Bender Stephens.



Marie, Mickey, Edward & Nancy Bender 1941

Edward Paul Bender and Marie Dahl Bender in 1947.



This picture was taken in our house at 4651 Alter Road, Detroit on Marie's birthday - November 13, 1947.

Here is a picture of Edward Bender in his house on Alter Road, Detroit.



Edward Bender

We don't have too many pictures of Ed because most of the time he was the photographer. He used to roll his own bulk film, take the pictures and then go upstairs to his darkroom and develop the film and print out his own pictures. Mickey also was fascinated with picture making and started snapping and developing too.

Here is a picture of Edward Paul Bender with his 4th child, William (Bill) Henry Bender.

Dad loved Bill very much and was always quite close to him. After high school Bill was very proud of the fact that he had enlisted in the army. Dad was sick when Bill told him as the Vietnam war was raging in 1967. Bill suffered injuries while in Vietnam and was sent to a hospital in Vietnam for weeks and then transferred to a hospital in Japan for over a month. His mother was frantic when she received no letters from him during this period. One evening Marie got a call from an operator in Japan. It was a 3 minute call from Bill in the hospital. Bill was later in transferred to Walter Reed Army hospital in Washington, D.C. where we visited him in 1969.

Bill passed away on Flag Day, the 14 of June, 1982.



Edward & Bill Bender

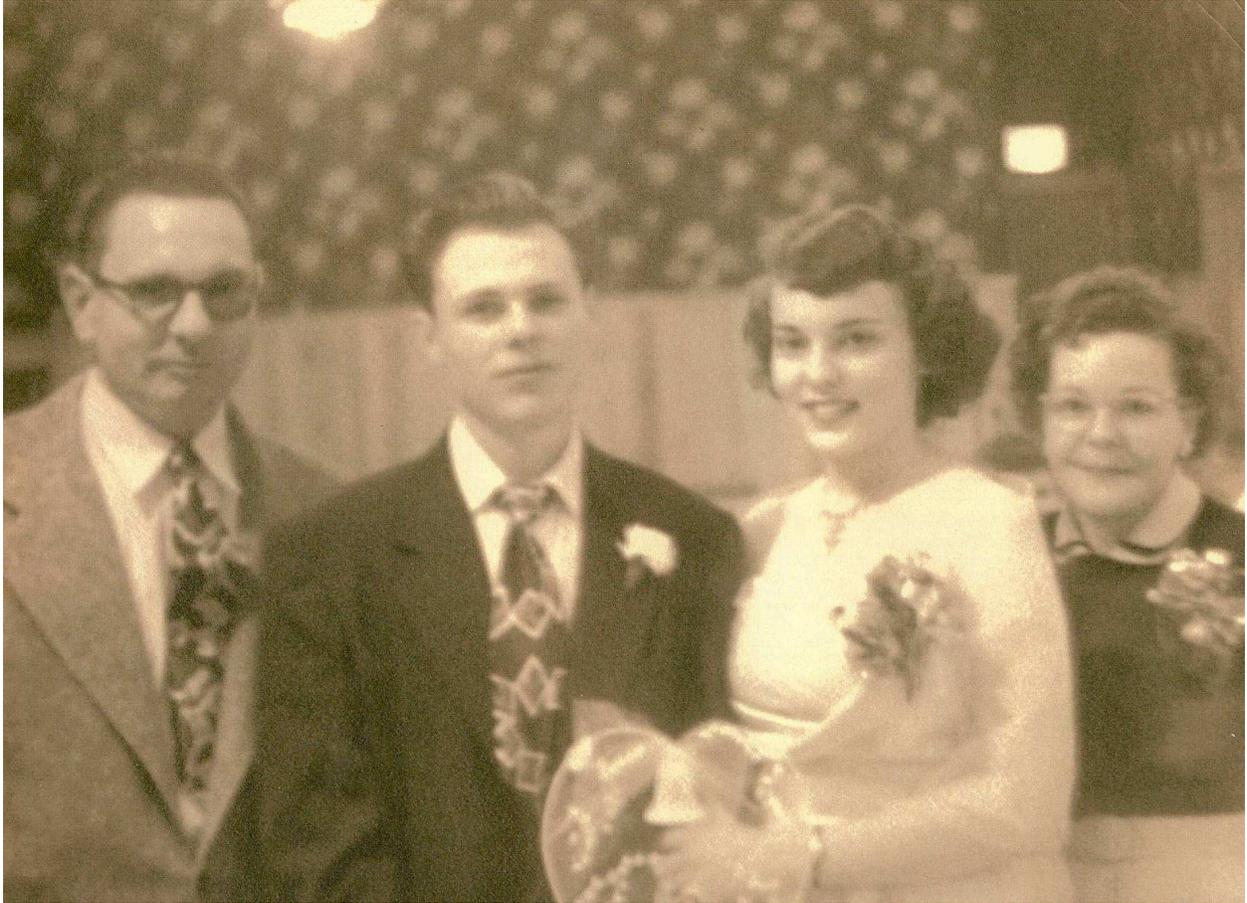
Here is a picture, from left of:

Edward Paul Bender, Donald Hunter Stephens, Nancy Mane Bender Stephens, and Marie Dahl Bcnder on Nancy and Don's wedding day, the 1st of December, 1951. Nancy was 16 years old when she married and Don was 18. Everyone was shocked and said it just wouldn't last. It did last for 36 years and most of those years were good ones for both of them. Although they did struggle financially until about 1964, Robbing Peter to pay Paul was a phrase often used to describe Don's finances. But he always managed to keep afloat and at the end of his life his net worth was very substantial indeed.

They had 4 children, Warren, Linda, Donna and Craig. They moved to California in 1969 and Don died there on 19 December, 1997 of cancer. Nancy moved to Henderson, Nevada.

Marie was really upset on Nancy's wedding day as Marie was expecting her last child, Douglas.

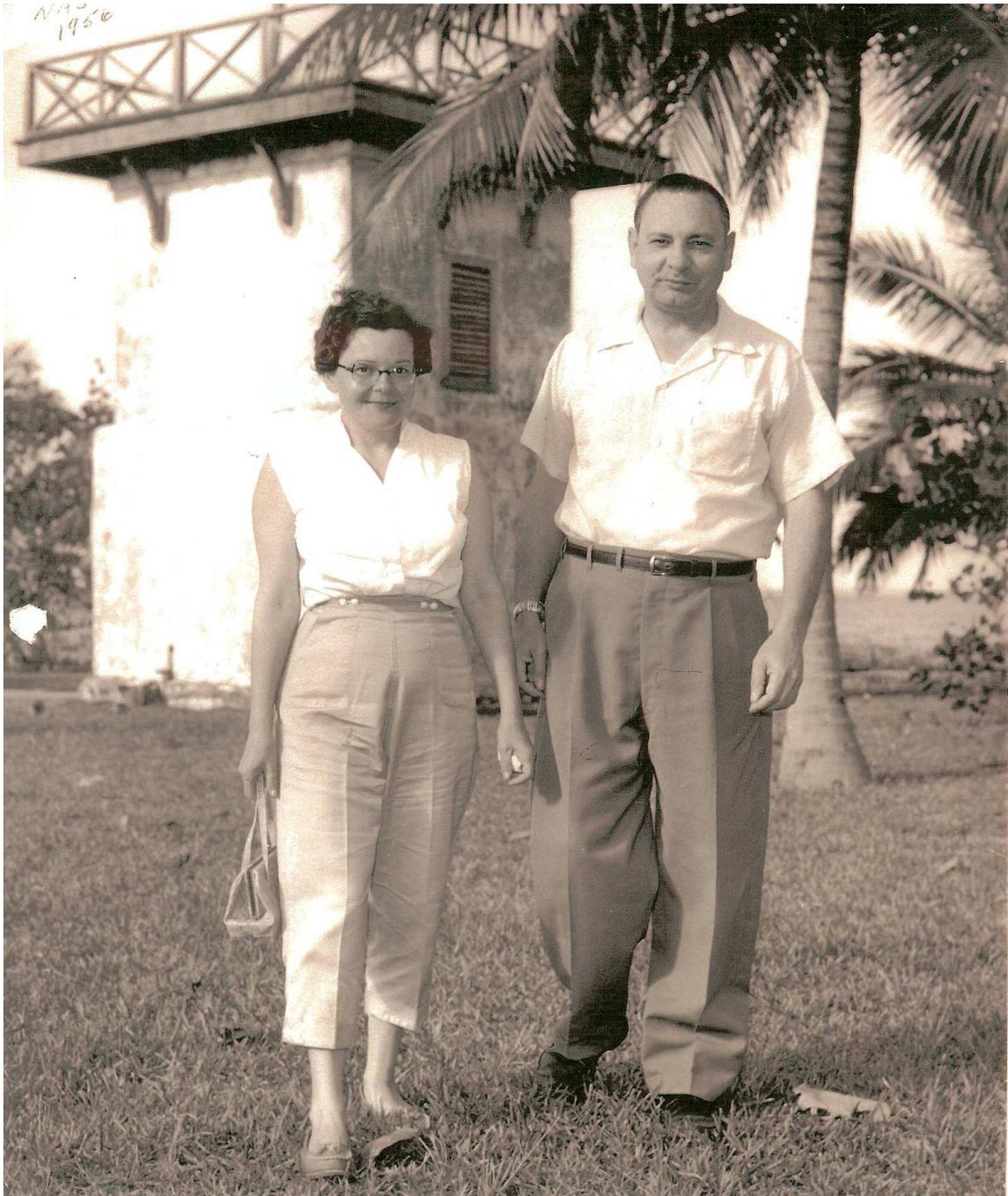
Edward shot some of the best pictures of his brother Norman and Art that day, but unfortunately this one is a bit fuzzy.



Ed Bender, Don Stephens, Nancy Bender & Marie Dahl Dec 1, 1951

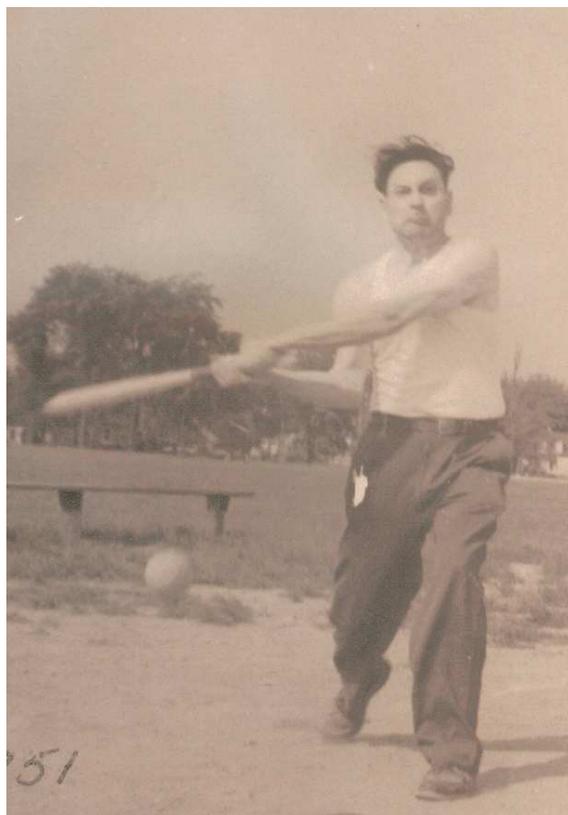
Marie and Edward Bender in Nassau on vacation. This was the first of three Caribbean vacations.

They won all of these vacations from G.E.



Marie and Edward Bender in Nassau, the Bahamas

Edward Paul Bender playing baseball at Warren Canyon Park, in Detroit in 1951. Present at this ball diamond this day were Ed, Norman, Mickey, Pinky, Sandy and Bill Bender.



Ed Bender

1951

Edward loved playing baseball. He used to run into his brother's houses on a Saturday morning and roust their teenage sons out of bed to play ball with him. Ed used to play a rougher game of ball before he was married, sliding into bases with reckless abandon. But after he got married and had a child he realized that he could not afford to break a bone and be out of work, so ball playing suddenly became more sedate.

Here is a picture of Edward Bender playing ball with his son, Michael Edward Bender.



Michael was never very enthusiastic about playing ball but did it to please his father. He felt that there was just too much pressure put on him to play well. In Ed's hand in this picture was the green visor that he always wore when playing ball. He used it to shade the sun from his eyes and also to keep his hair from falling in his face. This picture was taken at Warren Canyon playing field in Detroit near Grosse Pointe. It was dad's favorite field and was also close to Norman's house on Farmbrook.

This is a picture of Nancy Bender Stephens, the oldest child of Edward and Marie Dahl Bender.

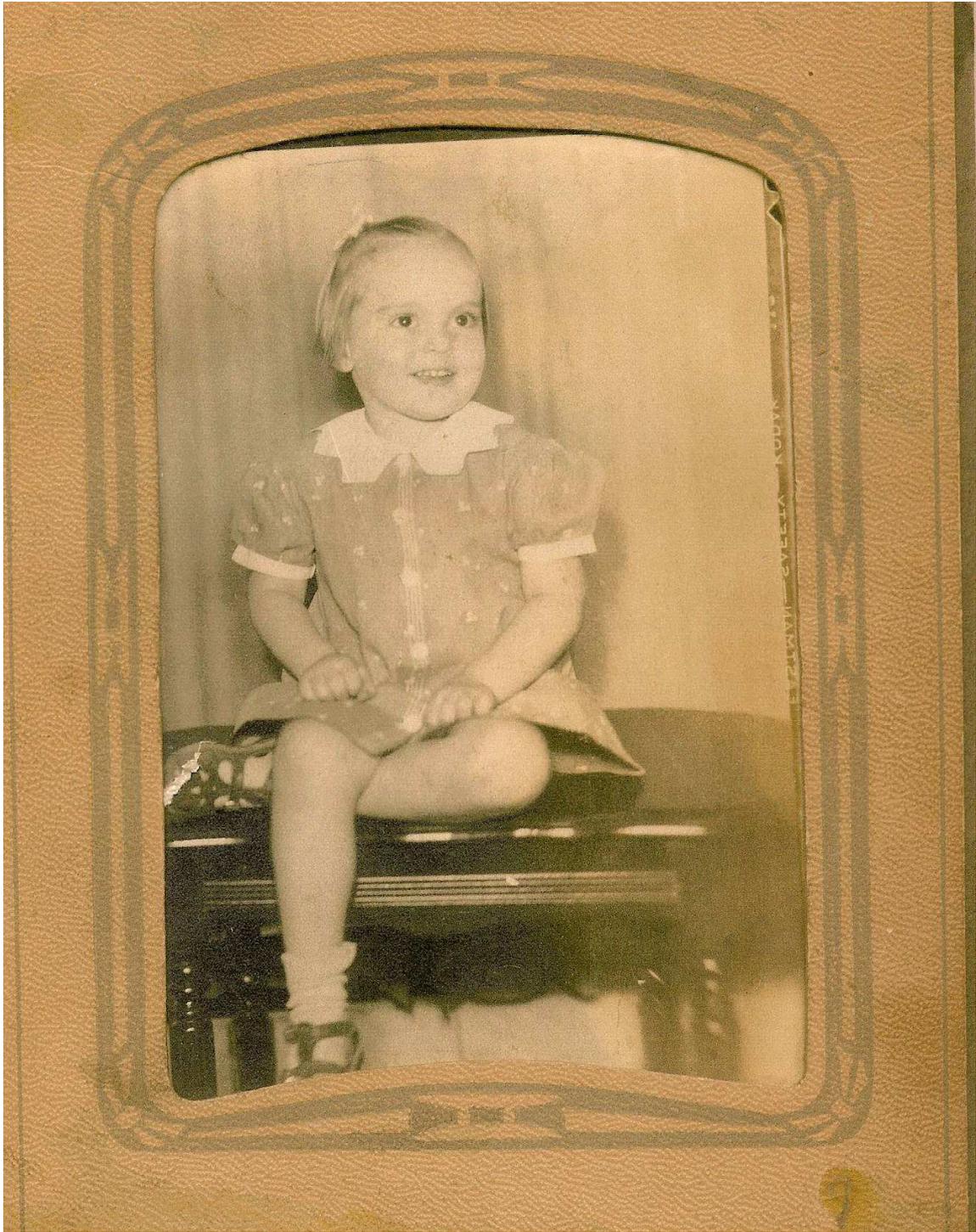
When Mike Bender gazed upon this picture of his older sister he said “See that look on her face. No wonder I was terrified to be around her”. She tried unsuccessfully a number of times in those days to do the poor little guy in. When he was an infant, Nancy lifted him out of his crib, carried him with her arms clamped around his chest, dropped him on the couch and proceeded to try to pour a cup of water down his new born throat. Marie managed to save him. Twice Nancy left the doors open. Once Mickey fell down the front stairs in his walker, another time he angled from his hand in thin air from a 2nd story porch railing. Either Mickey was made of tough stuff or he had a real attentive Guardian Angel!



Nancy Bender Stephens

This is a picture of Nancy Bender Stephens taken in 1940 when she was 5 years old. This picture was taken in a studio.

Nancy was a very lively, intelligent, happy child. She learned to walk and talk at a very early age. Nancy and Mickey were like a separate family as they were 7 and 10 years old when Sandy was born and Nancy was married and out of the house when Doug was born. Her son, Warren and Doug were only a year apart and they grew up together.



Nancy Bender Stephens

Here is a picture of Nancy Bender Stephens on her confirmation day in 1945. Juliette Meeseman, our next door neighbor was her sponsor.

Edward Bender was a devout Catholic as was Marie Dahl Bender and their children were brought up in the Catholic faith. Edward received his religious upbringing from his mother, Elizabeth Ott Bender who was a devout Catholic, attending Church regularly and even belonged to the Legion of Mary. Lizzie used to get poor tired Hank out of bed early every Sunday morning to walk 1 mile to St. John Berchman's Church. He would sit on the edge of the bed and say, "I'm bushed". He had what the doctor's called an "asthmatic heart" which was very weak and surrounded by fluid. On the 9th of November, 1944 Hank died of heart failure.

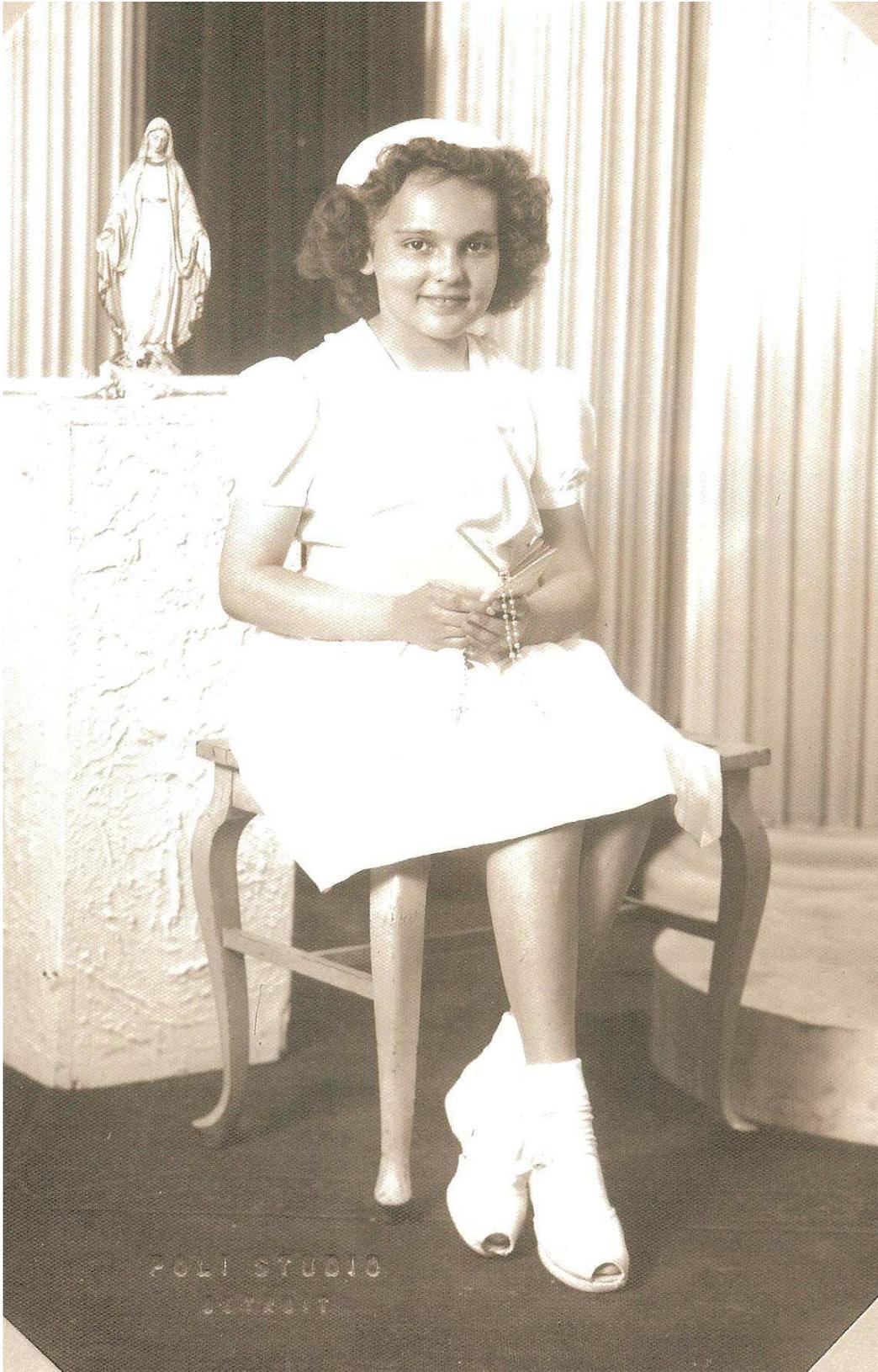


Nancy Bender Stephens confirmation day 1945

Here is another picture of Nancy Bender Stephens on her confirmation day in 1945.

They were living on Alter Road in Detroit by this time, having moved to this house in July, 1943. Alter Road was Ed and Marie's first home that they owned. The house cost \$4800 in 1943 and Ed had it paid off in 4 years.

Nancy attended St. John Berchman's school through the 6th grade then attended public school after that as her friends went to public school. Michael and Sandy attended all 12 years in the Catholic Schools.



Nancy Bender confirmation day

Here is a picture of Nancy Bender Stephens the year she got married.

Nancy was attending Southeastern High school and working evenings and weekends for Mr. Carroll at a real estate office in the vicinity of Warren Canyon Park, Detroit at the time of her marriage. Once married Nancy stayed home and kept house. When first married she lived with Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Stephens, Donald's parents for a few months, then they got their own upper flat across the street from Marie and Ed on Alter Road. They bought their first home in Berkley, Michigan around 1954.



Nancy Bender Stephens

Here is a picture of Nancy and Don's oldest 3 children. This picture was taken in 1959.

Nancy and Don were living in Berkley at the time this picture was taken.

From left, the children are: Donna Christine Stephens Pacheco, Linda Stephens White, Warren Donald Stephens.

The Stephens family moved first to Saar in Sterling Heights for 8 years then they moved permanently to Cypress, California in 1969. Donald worked first as an appliance and furniture salesman, then he went on his own doing furniture refinishing first in Michigan then in California. In the 1970s, Don bought land in a commercial district in Cypress and built his own large furniture store. He sold fine furniture until, shortly before his death when he had to sell the store due to ill health.



Donna

Linda

Warren Stephens

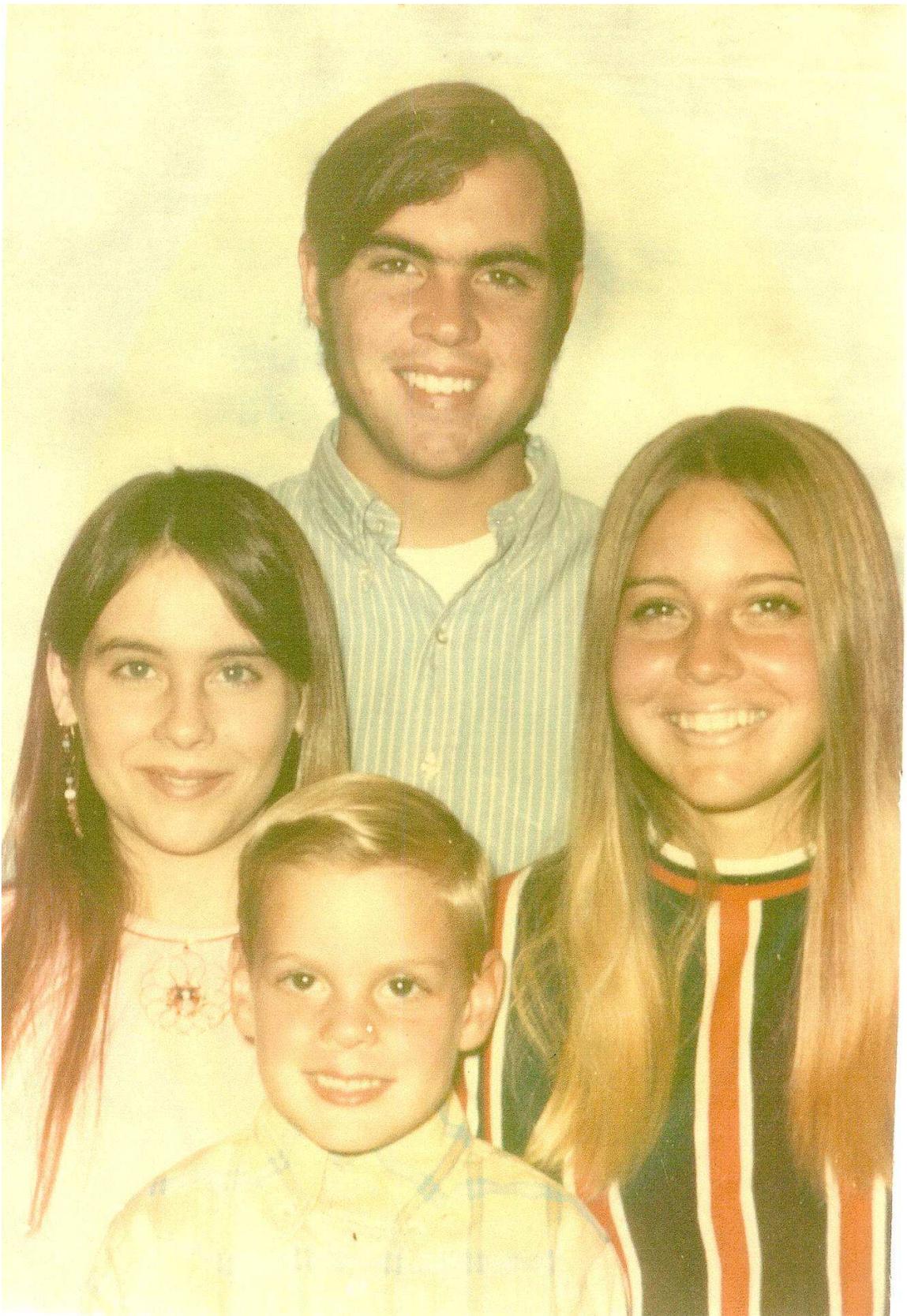
Here is a picture of Nancy Bender Stephen's 4 children. This picture was taken in California and now includes all of her children.

On top is Warren Donald Stephens, born August 1, 1953. He graduated from college in California and then moved to Washington D.C. and completed his law degree and was admitted to the bar in Maryland. He presently practices law in Maryland. He is married to Jacqueline Prince Stephens and has 2 children, Casey Shea and Patrick.

Center left: Donna Christine Stephens, born January 16, 1958. She married Alfred Pacheco and has 3 children: Michelle, Michael and Ashley. She presently is a commercial mortgage broker.

Center right: Linda Marie Stephens White. She is married to Gregory White and they have one daughter Nichole White Blais. Nicole just gave birth to a son, Devon, who is Marie and Edward Bender's great, great grandchild. Linda is a manager in an Insurance firm.

Lower: Craig Michael Stephens, born January 18, 1965. He is married to Mary Anne and has 3 children, Scott, Valerie and Roxanne. Craig is an electrician.



Donna, Warren, Craig & Linda Stephens

Here is a picture of Nancy Bender Stephens taken at her daughter Donna's wedding in 1975. Donna was married in the Stephens' residence at 10461 Santa Elise in Cypress, California. The years that they lived on Santa Elise were very good years for Nancy and Don. Don was very financially successful. Their home and furnishings were gorgeous and in the best of taste. They drove upscale cars, dined at the finest of restaurants and had very good vacations.



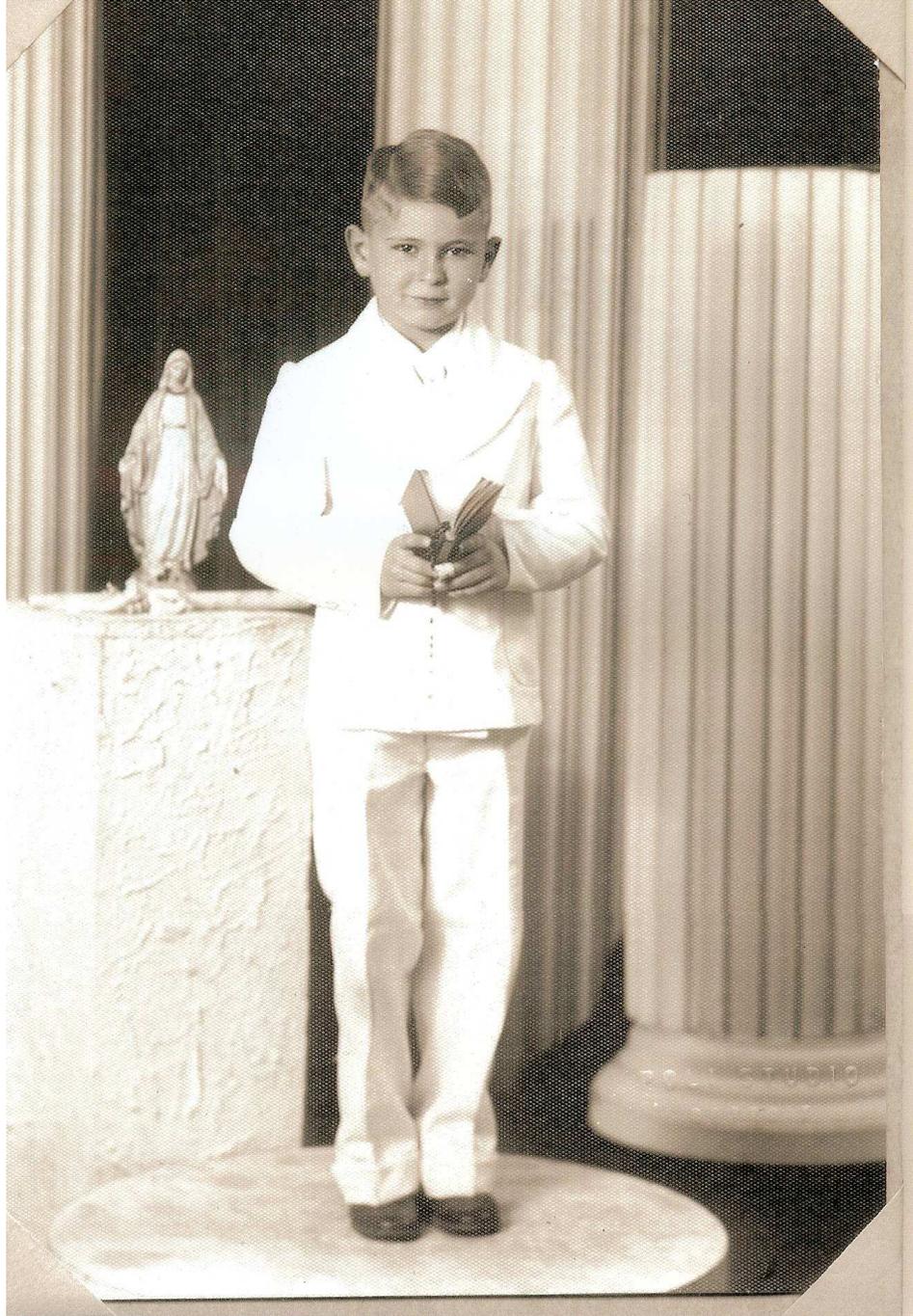
Nancy Bender Stephens

This is a picture of Michael Edward Bender on his first communion day in 1945.

Michael was Ed and Marie's "perfect" child. He was quiet, well mannered, intelligent and caused them no problems. At 12 years of age he started work at his dad's store. He also drove Ed's delivery truck at the tender age of 12 because all the delivery men smashed up Ed's trucks but young Michael proved to be a very careful driver.

Mike attended Catholic school for 12 years but never liked going there as he felt the nuns were overbearing and at times hypocritical. He was especially upset with them when they asked Ed to buy back their 5 year old TV and stand. When Ed said no, the nun told Michael that if he wanted pass the subject in her class he'd see that his dad bought the TV and stand back. Ed did so to spare Michael but Michael was forever more bitter about that.

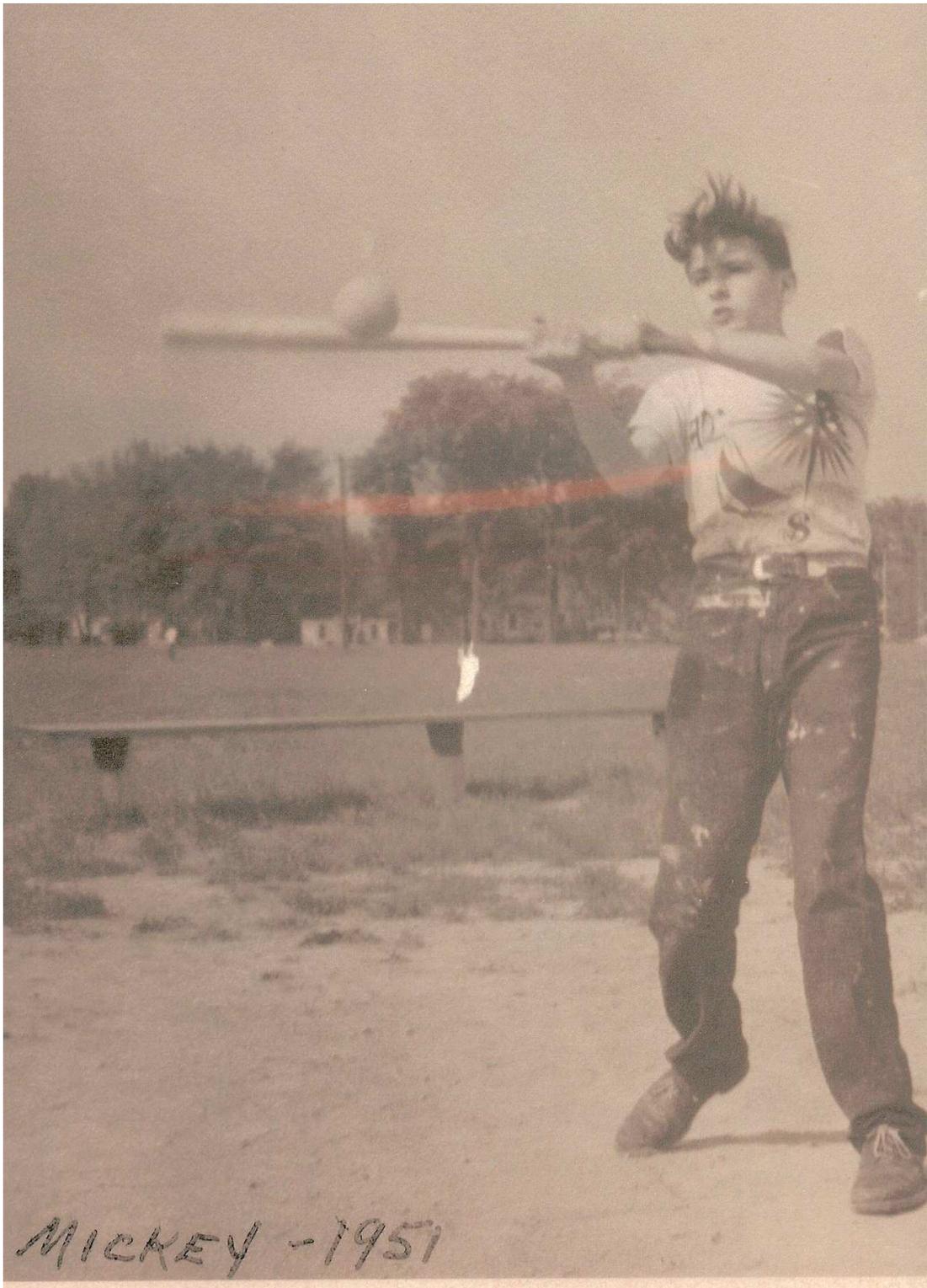
Michael attended Henry Ford Community college after high school graduation. Then he became an electrician for Dodge Main in Detroit and later transferred to the Warren, Michigan Tank Plant.



Michael Bender 1st Holy Communion 1945

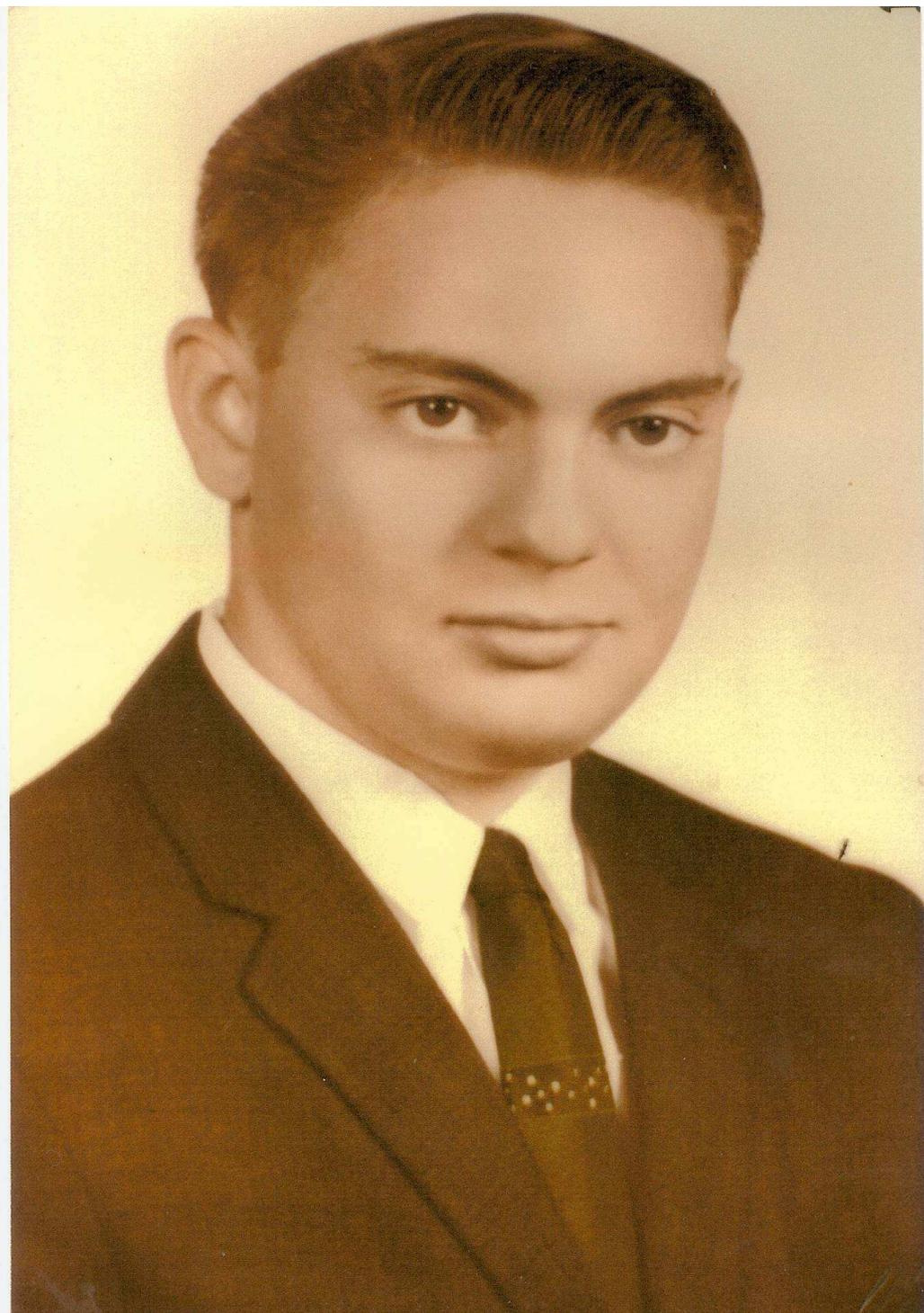
Here is a picture of Michael playing baseball with his dad Edward Bender and his uncle Norman and Norman's sons, Gary and Richard.

Michael did not enjoy sports, he did them to please his father and to fill in. In later days Michael used to gather his friends, Robert and Dennis Barr and Robert cousins together and they would play ball with Ed at the park at Warren and Alter Roads, Detroit. Ed was now into his 50s but I was so proud of him because he used to still knock that ball right over the back fence and clear out of the ball park. Those boys were 6' 4" but dad could still outplay them. Things got a little rough when those boys would play football with Ed as they would get overly enthusiastic and tackle him instead of playing touch football! Dad would run so fast to outrun those boys when he had the ball that one time his trousers dropped and he ended up over the goal line in his long johns! Anything to score a touchdown!



This is a picture of Edward and Marie Bender's son, William (Bill) Henry Bender. Bill was born on the 2nd of January, 1948, the 4th child and second son of Edward and Marie Bender.

Bill attended St. John Berchman's grade school in Detroit and then Utica High school. He graduated in 1966 and the following year he joined the Army and served in Vietnam. He was injured in Vietnam and spent months in hospitals in Japan and Bethesda, Maryland. He received a full disability pension from the Army and Social Security. Bill suffered an untimely death in 1982 at 32 years of age. Ed was so devastated by Bill's lapsing into a coma and then dying that he had a massive heart attack and died 2 weeks to the day after Bill died. Ed and Bill are buried side by side in St. Lawrence cemetery in Utica.



William Henry Bender

1966

Here is a picture of the Edward and Marie Dahl Bender family taken on the 19th of June, 1976 on Douglas and Karen Otter Bender's wedding day. Nancy is missing from this picture as she did not come to Michigan for the wedding.

Upper, from left are: Craig Stephens (Nancy's youngest son), Bill Bender, Michael Edward Bender and Sandy Bender Wilhelm.

Lower, from left are: Marie Dahl Bender, Karen Otter Bender, Douglas Paul Bender and Edward Paul Bender.

Karen came from a fine farm family who lived and worked on their farm for 4 generations now. The great grandparents came over from Germany and are German Lutherans.

Doug and Karen have 3 children: Michelle Marie Bender, Michael Douglas Bender and Douglas Paul Bender Jr..

Douglas received his degree from Oakland University. He has been employed as a Parole/Probation Officer for the State of Michigan and had his own construction company doing residential remodeling and new construction. He eventually went back to college and obtained an Associates Business Degree in programming and worked as a computer programmer for EDS.



Marie Bender Craig Stephens Karen Bender Bill Bender Douglas Sr. Bender Michael Bender Edward Bender Sandy Bender

This is Edward and Maries Bender's youngest son, Douglas Paul Bender, his wife Karen Otter Bender and their three children:

Michael in the blue suit, Douglas Jr. in the white suit and their daughter, Michelle Marie Bender in the blue and white dress.

Karen is a Social Worker for the State of Michigan and has obtained a Masters in Social Work at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.

Douglas Jr. obtained an Associate's Degree and attended Police Academy. He is currently employed as a Deputy Sheriff for Monroe County.

Michael also attended college and attended the Detroit Police Academy. He graduated 1st in his class. He is currently a Detroit Police Officer.

Michelle attends school and is employed full time.



This picture was taken of Edward Bender by his oldest grandchild, Warren Stephens 10 days before he died.



Edward Paul Bender June, 1982

Edward had just buried his son Bill the day before so he was deeply sorrowful here. It was a celebration of Father's day at Doug's house which doubled Ed's pain. Bill had been in a coma for 30 days before he died, but Ed was never able to come to the realization that Bill was about to die. When Marie told him death would occur in a day or two, Ed replied with great emotion, "OH NO! ! !".

Dad died 2 weeks to the day after Bill. He truly died of a broken heart.

This is the last picture taken of Edward Bender. This was taken on Sunday. On Monday afternoon he had a massive heart attack which killed 75% of his heart. He died on Tuesday 6/29/1982 at 6:24 am.

Dad was on his feet and active right up to the last. Just before this heart attack he walked his beloved dog Taffy 2 or 3 miles around the neighborhood. On his left is his beloved wife of 47 years, Marie Dahl Bender.

In this picture they are visiting the graves of her mother Nellie Dahl and her grandparents, Minna and Fred Dahl in Mt. Olivet cemetery.



Edward & Marie Bender - last picture taken of Edward

This picture is Marie Dahl Bender, her children, grandchild and great grandchildren.

Upper from left: Jacqueline Prince Stephens (Warren's wife), Marilyn Giles (Michael's friend) and Sandy Bender Wilhelm.

Lower from left: Patrick Kyle Stephens, Warren Donald Stephens, Marie Dahl Bender, Michael Edward Bender, Casey Shea Stephens and Harrigan (Sandy's Golden Retriever).

Casey Shea and Patrick are the great grandchildren of Marie Dahl Bender and the late Edward Paul Bender.

Warren is an Attorney and lives with his family in Maryland, in a quite upscale suburban community.



This picture is of Marie Dahl Bender holding her great, great grandson, Devon Blais on January 17th, 2000.

From left: Nancy Stephens, Marie Bender holding Devon Blais, Sandy Bender Wilhelm in black, Nicole White Blais sitting and Linda Stephens White on right.

This is the zenith of Marie Dahl Bender's life experience. Ever since Marie was 13 years old she always wanted to live to see the year 2000. Then in May of 1997 when her great grand daughter Nicole Marie White Blais got married her second wish was to live long enough to see her great great grandchild born and to have a 5 generation picture taken. In November of 1997 Marie was very close to death from congestive heart failure and the family sadly felt that she would not live to see the fulfillment of either wish. But with new medication she sprang back and lived to see 2000 and then to fly to California and see her great great grandson, Devon John Blais come into the world. The very day the child was born, we had professional photographers come to the hospital and this picture was taken.

Unfortunately, Edward never lived to see either of these wishes come true as he had passed away 17 ½ years earlier, in June of 1982.



Nancy Stephens

Marie Dahl Bender
Sandy Bender
Devon Blais

Nicole Blais
Linda White

This is a picture of Sandy Bender Wilhelm, the author of this photo album and most of the genealogy records and biographies we have today. She wrote the following:

I was born on December 5, 1944 in Cottage Hospital in Grosse Pointe City. I was the 3rd child of Edward and Marie Bender. I was the only child in which Edward stayed with Marie through the delivery. He was exhausted by the time I was born. When he found out it was another girl, he was disappointed. When he left the hospital he went to the drug store and bought a pint of what some one told him was real smooth bourbon. He drank it in the rain walking home. All through life when I would bring home a fabulous report card or hit a home run on the ball field, he would puff up with pride, then his shoulders would sag and he'd say, "Too bad your just a girl!".

I attended St. John Berchman's grade school, Servite High School in Detroit and graduated from Wayne State University. I was a Social Worker for the State of Michigan for 10 years and then an Administrator of 2 nursing homes for another 10 years. I married Dr. Werner Wilhelm on August 24th, 1992. I am presently retired since the death of my husband.

Sadly, on June 21st, 2010 at about 9:40 PM, Sandy lost her long fought battle with cancer. She is missed by all family and friends.



Sandy Bender Wilhelm

Well, that concludes our little journey into the past – viewing a thumb nail presentation into the lives and times of our Becker, Bender, Klein, Knapp and Ott ancestors. We saw them in the high points of their lives and in their greatest sorrow. We heard the good things about their characters and the not so good things. We learned about who had money and who couldn't even keep food on the table. But what we also should have learned is who among us had good and kind hearts and loved their families and did their best with what they had for those around them.

It's obvious why we retell the good things about our forefathers, but why, you might ask, tell about the bad things that they did? As an awakening to the younger generation – for a realization that the good or bad that we do lives on long after we pass on. That what we think we do in the dark, good or bad, always in the end finds the light of day – for a reflection for each of us as to what kind of a legacy we wish to leave behind - how we wish to be remembered. For most of the people in this book, their stories have been told, their chapters on life closed. How will our book of life read?